

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGARDING THE
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A LIVESTOCK
MANAGEMENT FACILITY
BY
FALCON RIDGE FARMS, LLC

DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2015

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Adams County Courthouse
Adams County Boardroom
507 Vermont
Quincy, Illinois

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

REPORTED BY RANDALL W. WELLS
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER - #0271

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1 **PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING**
2 **REGARDING THE**
3 **PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A LIVESTOCK**
4 **MANAGEMENT FACILITY**
5 **BY**
6 **FALCON RIDGE FARMS, LLC**

7
8
9 **TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING** heard on
10 the **14th day of May, 2015**, at the Adams County Courthouse, Adams
11 County Board Room, 507 Vermont Street, in the City of Quincy,
12 State of Illinois.

13 **A P P E A R A N C E S**

14 Illinois Department of Agriculture
15 State Fair Grounds
16 P.O. Box 19281
17 Springfield, Illinois 62794
18 By: Scott Frank
19 Bureau of Environmental Programs
20 Hearing Officer

21 Illinois Department of Agriculture
22 State Fair Grounds
23 P.O. Box 19281
24 Springfield, Illinois 62794
25 By: Warren D. Goetsch, P.E.
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Environmental Programs

Illinois Department of Agriculture
State Fair Grounds
P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, Illinois 62794
By: Brad A. Beaver
Bureau of Environmental Programs

ADAMS COUNTY BOARD:

Les Post - Chairman - District 6
Rebecca Weed - District 2
Lyle Nichols - District 4
John Brady - District 6
Joe Zanger - District 7
Theresa Bockhold - District 7
Ryan Niekamp - District 2
Matt Obert - District 5
Mark Peter - District 5

APPLICANTS:

William Hollis, DVM
Terry L. Feldmann, P.E.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015

MR. POST: Go ahead and call this public hearing for the Falcon Ridge Swine Farm Public Hearing tonight. Want to welcome everyone and thank you for such a large crowd.

Start off, please, by rising and joining me in the pledge of allegiance.

(Pledge Of Allegiance)

MR. POST: For our records, I'll call the roll of the board members.

Theresa Bockhold?

MS. BOCKHOLD: Here.

MR. POST: Duane Venvertloh?

Joe Zanger?

MR. ZANGER: Here.

1 MR. POST: Richard Reis?
2 Todd Duesterhaus?
3 Sam Franklyn?
4 Randy Reis?
5 Rebecca Weed?
6 MS. WEED: Here.
7 MR. POST: Ryan Niekamp?
8 MR. NIEKAMP: Here.
9 MR. POST: Dave Bellis?
10 Marvin Kerkhoff?
11 Todd Degitz?
12 John Heidbreder?
13 Kent Snider?
14 Lyle Nichols?
15 MR. NICHOLS: Here.
16 MR. POST: Rick Gengenbacher?
17 Mark Peter?
18 MR. PETER: Here.
19 MR. POST: Matt Obert?
20 MR. OBERT: Here.
21 MR. POST: John Brady?
22 MR. BRADY: Here.
23 MR. POST: Seldon Totsch?
24 Les Post. Present.
25 That's all I have at this time. I'll turn the

1 hearing over to the Department of Ag.

2 MR. FRANK: Thank you, Chairman Post.

3 Before we begin tonight, I would ask that everyone
4 please turn your cellphones to silent.

5 Thank you very much.

6 Good evening. On behalf of Philip Nelson, Director
7 of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, we thank you very much
8 for the invitation to come to Adams County today.

9 My name is Scott Frank. I'm with the Illinois
10 Department of Agriculture and I'll be serving as the Hearing
11 Officer for tonight's public informational meeting.

12 Also with me on behalf of the Department are Warren
13 Goetsch, the Bureau Chief of Environmental Programs; and Brad
14 Beaver, Manager of the Bureau's Livestock Program.

15 This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Section
16 12 of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

17 The informational meeting is being held at the
18 request of the Adams County Board and is to afford members of the
19 public an opportunity to ask questions and present oral and
20 written testimony regarding the proposed construction of a
21 3,461.8 animal unit swine facility by Falcon Ridge Farms, LLC.

22 My task this evening is to ensure that this meeting
23 is conducted in an orderly fashion and to ensure that all
24 comments and testimony received are entered into the record.

25 Tonight's meeting is being transcribed. The

1 transcript of the meeting will be sent to the Adams County Board,
2 as well as used by the Department of Agriculture, in making its
3 determination regarding the proposed construction of this
4 facility.

5 In order to ensure that we have an orderly process, I
6 will quickly explain how the meeting will proceed this evening.

7 First following my comments, Warren Goetsch will
8 provide an overview of the provisions of the Livestock Management
9 Facilities Act as it relates to this particular project,
10 specifically outlining the current status of the project and how
11 the process will proceed following this meeting.

12 Following Mr. Goetsch, representatives for the
13 proposed construction project will be given an opportunity to
14 describe the project and demonstrate how they believe it meets
15 the siting criteria of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

16 After their presentation, I will open the meeting to
17 questions. Anyone wishing to ask questions of the Facility
18 representatives or the Department will be given an opportunity to
19 do so. During the question and answer session, I'll ask that you
20 state your name and spell your last name for the court reporter.
21 You then may ask your question. Depending on the number of
22 people who wish to testify in the oral testimony phase of the
23 meeting, which is right after this question phase, there may be a
24 time limit placed on this questioning phase.

25 Following the question and answer phase, I will ask

1 for written testimony. If anyone has written testimony that is
2 not a part of your oral testimony, I will accept it and enter it
3 into the record for this proceeding.

4 If you have written material that you will be using
5 as part of your oral testimony, it can be entered into the record
6 following your oral testimony.

7 Then depending on the amount of time that has elapsed
8 at this point in the meeting, we may take a short break.

9 Following the written testimony, I will ask for oral
10 testimony from the public. Sign-in sheets were placed near the
11 entrance to the room as you came in. One sheet for attendance
12 and a second sheet for testimony.

13 People who wish to provide comments during this oral
14 testimony phase are asked to sign the oral testimony sheet.
15 People providing oral comments will be sworn in and will be
16 subject to questioning from the public.

17 Each person will be given three minutes to provide
18 his or her comments.

19 Legal counsel speaking on behalf of multiple clients
20 will be given a total of fifteen minutes for all clients and will
21 be asked to state the names of all the persons on whose behalf he
22 or she is speaking.

23 Deferring time to other speakers will not be allowed.

24 If you sign the oral testimony sheet, you may either
25 speak, or if you have changed your mind, you may pass. You may

1 not give your time to someone else.

2 Also, please keep in mind that if you do not wish to
3 be asked questions regarding your oral testimony, do not sign the
4 sheet, or if you have already signed it, indicate you would like
5 to pass when I call your name.

6 The meeting will then conclude with closing comments
7 from the Facility and the Department of Agriculture.

8 So to summarize the procedure tonight: We will have
9 comments from the Department; comments from the Facility;
10 questions directed to the Department and the Facility, and
11 remember to state your name and spell your name; written
12 testimony accepted; oral testimony from the public; people will
13 be sworn in and questions may be asked following the testimony;
14 and then closing comments.

15 Please keep in mind that we are not here this evening
16 to discuss or debate the perceived inadequacies or merits of the
17 existing regulations or laws.

18 We are here tonight to receive information on this
19 particular proposed livestock facility, to assist with
20 determining compliance with the existing regulations.

21 This is a public informational meeting, not a court
22 proceeding. The purpose is to share information and provide an
23 opportunity for the Department, the County Board, and you the
24 public to learn about this proposed facility.

25 Again, we very much appreciate your hospitality in

1 inviting us here tonight to consider the proposed construction of
2 the Falcon Ridge Farms swine facility. Please remember to
3 confine your comments and questions to that subject as we
4 continue.

5 I will now turn the proceedings over to Warren
6 Goetsch for remarks from the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

7 MR. GOETSCH: Good evening. My name is Warren
8 Goetsch. I currently serve as the Chief of Staff and Bureau
9 Chief of Environmental Programs for the Illinois Department of
10 Agriculture.

11 One of our responsibilities at the Department is the
12 administration of the various provisions of the Livestock
13 Management Facilities Act.

14 On behalf of Director Nelson and the Department let
15 me welcome you to this public informational meeting.

16 Before we hear from the proposed facility's
17 representatives, I would like to say a few words regarding the
18 applicable provisions of the Livestock Management Facilities Act
19 and the current status of this proposed project.

20 The Livestock Management Facilities Act was
21 originally passed and became law on May 21st of 1996. Since that
22 time the Act has been amended three times: First, during the
23 General Assembly's 1997 fall veto session; second, during the
24 General Assembly's 1999 spring session; and most recently during
25 the 2007 spring session.

1 The Act can be generally described as covering five
2 major areas. Those being facility design standards, waste
3 management planning requirements, facility operator training and
4 testing, anaerobic lagoon financial responsibility demonstration,
5 and facility setback requirements.

6 Each of these provisions impacts various types of
7 facilities in different ways depending upon their size, expressed
8 in animal units, and whether the proposed facility is considered
9 a new facility, a modified facility, or the expansion of an
10 existing site.

11 The Livestock Management Facility Act's provisions
12 are quite complicated and specific facility designs and
13 situations can certainly differ. It is, however, the
14 Department's intention to always fairly and equitably apply these
15 requirements to the livestock industry in this state.

16 Now regarding the current status of this project, the
17 Department received a formal Notice of Intent to Construct
18 Application for the proposed construction of a swine facility on
19 March 23rd, 2015.

20 The proposed project is to consist of the
21 construction of one farrowing building measuring 176 by 448 feet
22 with a 2 foot deep underbuilding livestock waste handling
23 facility; one gestation building measuring 161 feet 10 inches by
24 642 feet with a 10 foot deep underbuilding livestock waste
25 handling facility; one gilt developer isolation building

1 measuring 81 feet 2 inches by 342 feet with a 10 foot deep
2 underbuilding livestock waste handling facility; and one holding
3 room measuring 40 feet by 64 feet with a two feet deep
4 underbuilding livestock waste handling facility.

5 The project is proposed to be located approximately
6 1.4 miles northwest of Clayton, Illinois in Northeastern Adams
7 County.

8 The application was submitted by Maurer-Stutz on
9 behalf of Falcon Ridge Farms, LLC of Carthage, Illinois.

10 The maximum design capacity of the proposed facility
11 is 3,461.8 animal units, or 7,750 head greater than 55 pounds,
12 and 12,060 head less than 55 pounds.

13 As I mentioned earlier, the Department received the
14 Notice of Intent to Construct Application on March 23rd and
15 reviewed it for compliance with the applicable provisions of the
16 Act.

17 On April 13th the Department determined that the
18 notice was complete and forwarded a copy to the -- or excuse me
19 -- forwarded a copy of the completed application to the Adams
20 County Board.

21 Notice of that application was also published in the
22 appropriate newspapers.

23 The design capacity of the proposed facility requires
24 compliance with a residential setback distance of not less than
25 1,760 feet, and a populated area setback distance of not less

1 than 3,520 feet.

2 On May 1st the Department received official notice
3 from the Adams County Board requesting that a public
4 informational meeting be scheduled regarding the proposal.

5 After further consultation with the County Board, the
6 Department scheduled this meeting and caused notice of the
7 meeting to be published in the appropriate newspapers.

8 An additional requirement of the Livestock Management
9 Facilities Act deals with the design and construction plans of
10 the livestock waste handling facility.

11 The Department has not received a formal submittal of
12 detailed engineering design plans and specifications for the
13 proposed projects underbuilding livestock waste handling
14 facilities at this time. As such, we are unable to comment on
15 their compliance with the statutory requirements of the Act at
16 this time.

17 We are here this evening to receive testimony
18 regarding the proposed livestock management facility's compliance
19 with the eight siting criteria as defined in Section 12,
20 paragraph (d) of the Livestock Management Facilities Act.

21 In general, information regarding the following would
22 be appropriate for this evening's meeting: Information about
23 manure management planning; potential impact of the proposed
24 facility on the surrounding area's character; whether the
25 proposed facility is located within any floodplains or other

1 sensitive areas; odor control plans associated with the proposed
2 project; possible impact of the proposed facility on existing
3 area traffic patterns; and possible impact of the proposed
4 facility on community growth, tourism, recreation, or economic
5 development in the area.

6 Copies of the specific criteria were available on the
7 table with the sign-in sheets as you entered the room. If anyone
8 would like to have a copy of the criteria but didn't pick one up,
9 if you'd just put your -- or raise your hand, Brad has some here
10 and we would be happy to make sure that you have a copy should
11 you like.

12 There's one over here, Brad.

13 Finally, the process that will be followed after this
14 evening's meeting is as follows: The county board will have up
15 to 30 business days from today's meeting to submit to the
16 Department a non-binding recommendation relative to the siting of
17 this facility. Thus, a recommendation from the Adams County
18 Board is due at the Department on or before June 26th.

19 After the close of the County's 30 business day
20 comment period, the Department will have 15 calendar days, or
21 until July the 11th, to review all of the information submitted
22 to date, including the Notice of Intent to Construct,
23 construction plans, transcripts from this evening's meeting, the
24 County Board's recommendation, and any other additional
25 information submitted by the owners at the request of the

1 Department.

2 Based on that review, the Department will determine
3 whether the eight siting criteria have been met.

4 Once that determination has been made, the Department
5 will notify both the County Board and the applicant of the
6 Department's decision.

7 Mr. Hearing Officer, at this time I would like to
8 submit the -- a copy of the completed Notice of Intent to
9 Construct Application and its associated correspondence file for
10 formal entry into the record as Exhibit 1.

11 I would also like to submit a copy of this PowerPoint
12 presentation as Exhibit 2.

13 This would conclude my formal remarks.

14 Again, I thank you all for your attention and look
15 forward to hearing your comments regarding the proposal.

16 And I'll turn the meeting back now to the Hearing
17 Officer.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. FRANK: Entered into the record as Exhibit Number
20 1 is the completed Notice of Intent to Construct, including
21 correspondence between the Department and the applicant; notices
22 of the public informational meeting; and correspondence with the
23 Adams County officials.

24 Also entered into the record as Exhibit Number 2 is a
25 copy of the Department's PowerPoint presentation.

1 Thank you, Mr. Goetsch.

2 I have to apologize a little bit. We did have a
3 monitor that we were going to set up on the table over here.
4 Somehow or other it bit the dust on the trip over, so it's not
5 working properly. So it will be just a little bit of
6 inconvenience for the speakers here to look at the screen behind
7 them, but we apologize for that.

8 At this time we'll hear comments from the Facility.

9 Before you begin, for those who will be presenting
10 information, please state your name and spell your last name for
11 the court reporter and then I will swear you in.

12 DR. HOLLIS: My name is Bill Hollis. That's B-i-l-l.
13 Last name H-o-l-l-i-s.

14 MR. FELDMANN: My name is Terry Feldmann,
15 F-e-l-d-m-a-n-n.

16 MR. FRANK: Please raise your right hand.

17 **WILLIAM HOLLIS & TERRY FELDMANN,**
18 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

19 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

20 DR. HOLLIS: I'm going to start and try to speak to
21 the Board and to those of you that have joined us.

22 Can you hear me in the back okay?

23 Or do you want me to hold it?

24 You can hear me okay?

25 Just this way?

1 Can you hear me all right?

2 THE REPORTER: Yes, sir.

3 DR. HOLLIS: All right. I'll try not to turn my head
4 too much or maybe carry this with me.

5 Thank you.

6 Can you hear me now?

7 Okay. My name is Bill Hollis. I'm a veterinarian in
8 private practice in Carthage, Illinois. Our business,
9 Professional Swine Management, is a hog farm management service
10 company.

11 I came to Carthage in 1996 as a veterinarian with
12 Carthage Veterinary Service. And in 2000 our partnership also
13 started the management service company called Professional Swine
14 Management.

15 Tonight we're here to talk about Falcon Ridge Farms.
16 Professional Swine Management does not own Falcon Ridge Farms,
17 but it's hired by that group of farmers to operate that farm.

18 Since 2000 Professional Swine Management has
19 successfully assisted farmers like those that own Falcon Ridge
20 Farm to locate, construct, and operate hog farms for them.

21 Most of the farms that we service and manage through
22 Professional Swine Management are sow farms, exactly like Falcon
23 Ridge Farms.

24 And so the farmers who own that trust us and have
25 asked us to guide that project to completion and then to operate

1 it and run it for them.

2 So holding a public hearing like tonight is something
3 that we've done before and we have successfully shepherded
4 projects to completion through Schuyler County, McDonough County,
5 Hancock County, and in Adams County previously.

6 Falcon Ridge Farms is a partnership of local farmers
7 in Adams County that want to own a piece of this farm and Iowa
8 farmers that want to feed the pigs.

9 The baby pigs that are produced at Falcon Ridge Farms
10 will be moved to Iowa to be raised and fed and taken to market.
11 So what we plan to do is to operate a sow farm to produce baby
12 pigs.

13 Why we are here tonight is to offer some images of
14 what we do; to allow you to ask us more questions about your
15 concerns and about how we operate these farms; and then also to
16 ask the engineers that we have employed to discuss the
17 construction, and the requirements, and the plan as they meet the
18 eight siting criteria required by the Illinois Department of
19 Agriculture.

20 So in a general sense, we're here to talk about the
21 people; that being the farmers and the operators of this farm.

22 We're here to talk about the pigs, and how we
23 organize these farms to produce, and how we protect the
24 environment.

25 And we're here to talk about the neighbors and those

1 concerns that have been raised and offer our experience in
2 answering those questions, and then also making ourselves
3 available to the concerns that neighbors may have.

4 So I want to show a few pictures because you may
5 recognize some faces. Some actually will be here tonight. And
6 they -- I'm sorry for the glare, but what you can see behind some
7 of these folks are facilities that would be just like Falcon
8 Ridge Farms. Facilities that house breeding sows and farrowing
9 pigs that are mother's giving birth.

10 These folks would all be employees of our business
11 and all be one hundred percent committed to raising healthy pigs
12 through a farm just like Falcon Ridge Farms.

13 This individual came to our company and worked her
14 way up to become a manager in the farm. And what she's doing is
15 something that happens on everyone of these farms that we manage
16 every day. She's holding a staff meeting in a break room talking
17 to a group of employees.

18 And so these twenty jobs that will be part of Falcon
19 Ridge Farms are part of an opportunity in the community and also
20 part of a career advancement for a manager like this individual.

21 Professional Swine Management is employed to operate
22 those farms. And so this group of people that you see here,
23 again, many of the faces who have chose to be here tonight work
24 for Professional Swine Management located in Carthage.

25 Our management service company encompasses many

1 different aspects of the operation of the facilities. And all of
2 these folks are one hundred percent employed in the swine
3 management service business. So their jobs depend on the success
4 of farms just like Falcon Ridge Farms.

5 I want to list off in a little bit more detail for
6 you who we are.

7 So Professional Swine Management is responsible to
8 develop and train farm staff, but these 431 people are not the
9 employees of Professional Swine Management. They would be
10 employees of farms like Falcon Ridge Farms.

11 There are actually 27 different farm locations. Most
12 of them in Illinois, most of them right here in Western Illinois,
13 some in Missouri, some in Central Illinois.

14 But Professional Swine Management oversees,
15 administers, and trains 431 farm staff employees directly raising
16 pigs. Those are folks in the barn raising pigs.

17 The employees that are specifically through
18 Professional Swine Management include -- oops. What did I do
19 there?

20 I'm sorry. I hit the wrong button.

21 MR. BEAVER: I gotcha.

22 DR. HOLLIS: Thank you.

23 Are specifically these 40 individuals, which include
24 our chief operator officer and financial officer; our production
25 directors, who do a great deal of the education, training, and

1 day to day development.

2 Finishing managers. This individual actually is here
3 tonight. Is a Ph.D. in soil and water conservation employed a
4 hundred percent by Professional Swine Management and committed to
5 assuring the protection of the environment and the operation of
6 the Facility.

7 We also provide for maintenance.

8 We provide human resources.

9 Logistics are the movement of the pigs and the feed.

10 The recordings, and accounting, and administration of
11 the business.

12 So that is who we are.

13 And that picture of 40 people standing in front of
14 our office are right there in Carthage.

15 As I mentioned, PSM was established in 2000.

16 Today we manage 27 locations.

17 And PSM is hired by family farmers. So the folks
18 that have asked for us to operate their farm, if you can vision
19 now a farmer that used to have two hundred sows and their own
20 corn field and their own hog buildings, now wants Professional
21 Swine Management to breed, gestate and farrow the sow for them.

22 The best way for them to do that is to have a piece
23 or an ownership in that. So Falcon Ridge Farms again is a
24 partnership of folks that will own that sow farm. That farm will
25 produce the baby pigs. And then they take that baby pig home to

1 their own operation to raise and feed for delivery to market.

2 So it really is a partnership for the independent
3 family farmer who is going to raise those pigs at home.

4 It also helps them to put their own corn into their
5 own pigs in their own barn. So Falcon Ridge is built to provide
6 those baby pigs to those family farmers.

7 This gives you a little bit more history of our
8 business and more of why we do what we do.

9 So if you remember, I mentioned my involvement was
10 not until 1996 in the veterinary practice. Prior to that the
11 founder of that clinic was involved in recordkeeping and working
12 with genetic advancement and then began putting these sow co-ops,
13 they were called then, but really they're an LLC company of many
14 different size farmers that can pool their resources together to
15 own that operation individually and those pigs come to their
16 farms.

17 That began in the 90's and 2000's and now we're
18 involved in much more learning and development, training and
19 education.

20 We're located in Carthage. Western Illinois. Our
21 veterinary office is still there. And we also purchased the old
22 college campus. And again, this is the Professional Swine
23 Management side of our business. So we live here and have been
24 here for a long time.

25 Some of you here in Quincy might know we were

1 surprised and really pleased to win the 2015 Agribusiness of the
2 Year award given by the Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce. We were
3 nominated by one of the local businesses that provides feed.

4 So we really appreciate that recognition and believe
5 that we are part of the community and want to continue to grow
6 and do that good work here in the community.

7 This is just another picture of our support with the
8 Illinois Pork Producers and our involvement in the industry.
9 This is at the Illinois State Fair. If you ever been to the
10 Illinois State Fair it takes a lot of busy hands to make pork
11 chops and feed people. We appreciate being part of that and
12 expect to continue to help build that organization as we grow.

13 So PSM's value is to be well positioned in this
14 rapidly changing environment of raising livestock. We believe
15 we're well-suited to help farmers remain independent, to remain
16 in an ownership position.

17 And I'm certainly free to take your questions later
18 in more specifics if you want, but it is an LLC company. So
19 Falcon Ridge can allow a producer that may have 200 sows and
20 another producer that may have 500 sows to have ownership
21 together. And they're each responsible for their own piece of
22 business. And that's why those farms have developed.

23 So I mentioned earlier that we would have farms in
24 Hancock County or McDonough County that Professional Swine
25 Management would also manage. Those farms would have different

1 ownership. So they don't own Falcon Ridge; they own their own
2 farms.

3 So to help you understand the relationship,
4 Professional Swine Management is trusted to oversee that
5 operation, administer the staff, and make sure that those
6 producers' barns are full of pigs.

7 I want to talk a little bit also to finish up on who
8 we are about the people that we're trying to bring to the area.

9 This is a group of students, veterinary students from
10 the University of Illinois. And we're really proud that five of
11 these fifteen veterinary students have worked in our business at
12 one time or another.

13 Several of them have gone on to own their own
14 veterinary practices, but got their start with us. And we're
15 very proud that they came here and were part of our business and
16 part of our education to understand the pig business and
17 understand our industry and go on to grow.

18 And a few of them have stayed here in our Western
19 Illinois community and helped -- helped our business to grow.

20 Tonight is also about the pigs. And I wanted to
21 share this slide because not too long ago we did have clients
22 with sows out in the field, or raising feeder pigs out in the
23 snow. There's some romance to go back to that. And I want to
24 help you understand why we don't have a large part of our
25 industry turning them out in the field.

1 And it's pictures like this that help remember, if
2 any of you have had to carry feed buckets through the field or
3 run pigs back up through the snow. That's why facilities like
4 Falcon Ridge are put together. And why the growth, and the
5 efficiency, and the safety of the food is at the top of the list.

6 So in Illinois, Illinois is number 4 in pork
7 production.

8 Illinois has around 4 million pigs. And we've had
9 some questions at meetings such as this about are we getting too
10 many pigs. I want you to think now in terms of Iowa, which has
11 25 million pigs, and Illinois which has 4.6 million pigs.

12 That's why these Iowa producers are looking to us in
13 Western Illinois to safely build and protect a sow farm for them
14 to deliver baby pigs for them to raise. They want an opportunity
15 to raise sows in this part of the Midwest. And it also helps us
16 to grow our Midwest swine business.

17 But we really do not have an overpopulation of pigs
18 here in Western Illinois. And actually, we would like to see our
19 pork producers continue to grow their business.

20 Falcon Ridge is going to be -- I think it's
21 approximately 4 miles from one of the other farms. And if we can
22 continue to find locations that have a safe area with tree cover,
23 such as the Falcon Ridge location, we think that's quite a good
24 fit for everyone.

25 This is just a picture of a successful production at

1 a farm like Falcon Ridge Farms. So those pigs are weaned at
2 approximately 21 days.

3 And so the numbers that were shared earlier are
4 submitted through the documents of 7 thousand animals at greater
5 than 55 pounds, and approximately 12 thousand animals at less
6 than 55 pounds.

7 Operationally, Falcon Ridge Farms will be considered
8 in our business a 5,600 sow farm, that's a pregnant sow, working
9 inventory, and is going to deliver approximately 2 semi loads of
10 baby pigs every week. Each semi load will have approximately
11 twelve hundred baby pigs on it.

12 So every week baby pigs will be delivered. And most
13 frequently, going to a different farm that is an owner in that
14 operation.

15 This just shows gestating sows in pregnancy, using
16 pregnancy diagnosis statistics to confirm pregnancy.

17 And then a sow raising her baby pigs in a farrowing
18 house where she is nursing those pigs for approximately 3 weeks
19 before weaning.

20 These baby pigs are moved to other farms where this
21 actually is a feeding floor location and then raised up to a
22 market weight.

23 It's also important that we recognize the amount of
24 corn that will be purchased and fed. The pork industry as a
25 whole consumes about 155 million bushels of corn and 32 million

1 bushels of soybeans.

2 Falcon Ridge will consume approximately 180,000
3 bushels of corn.

4 And I've got a few slides about our partnership with
5 a very excellent feed supplier, a very good business that we've
6 been happy to work with for quite some time.

7 Oh. Our NSI Feed Mill relationship, if you've driven
8 through Carthage, has grown right along with the swine business.
9 And some of you in the room may deliver corn to Dearwester Grain.
10 And so we're very proud of that successful relationship.

11 The feed is going to be manufactured and delivered
12 from NSI, and I would assume that some of you deliver corn to
13 Dearwester Grain.

14 The manure is going to go right there around the
15 farm. We already have relationships and -- and Mr. Feldmann can
16 speak to our manure management plan, or our people, and how that
17 is operated, but I'll certainly commit that this manure is going
18 to be knifed in the ground.

19 We have a relationship with excellent contractors who
20 provide a tremendous service to these farms. They ensure that
21 that manure is going into the ground at a safe rate, at a
22 measured rate, and that they monitor the application process.

23 I mentioned earlier that Dr. Henry Wilson is with us.
24 He's our soil and water conservationist, a Ph.D., that has
25 monitored this and recorded this type of information.

1 So we're actually quite proud of that relationship
2 where those nutrients go back in the soil and grow crops that
3 make this a highly sustainable, successful relationship.

4 Tonight is also -- I want to wrap up for you.
5 Tonight is also about concerns that neighbors may have. And we
6 respect that we are asking to build a facility that to some may
7 be intimidating or to some may be intrusive and -- it is not our
8 intent to be either one of those.

9 It is our intent to be tucked back in the trees, to
10 be operated in an excellent manner that actually exceeds the
11 requirements and meets the natural expectations of farmers today.
12 And so I want to speak to some of those.

13 We have selected this site so that it's a safe
14 location for odor control and it has good tree cover.

15 We do believe it minimizes traffic and the trucks
16 that are going to need to turn corners and -- and the roads that
17 are going to need to be maintained. And I'll let Mr. Feldmann
18 speak to that, but our Chief Operator Officer, Ted Ufkes, has
19 talked to the road commissioner and the Mayor of Clayton.

20 We believe that there are concerns for that gravel
21 road straight in front of the site that can be addressed easily.
22 It's certainly not going to be insurmountable by any means. And
23 we believe that it's ideally suited back in the trees and can
24 easily be maintained.

25 I'll, again, share that we've done this in many other

1 locations and have a proven track record of helping support those
2 projects to make sure that we're not creating a burden to the
3 area.

4 As I mentioned before, those nutrients back in the
5 soil are ideal, and in this situation we have a good deal of
6 cropland adjacent and welcoming the manure.

7 There have also been some concerns raised in public
8 meetings about violations or concerns that Professional Swine
9 Management had a problem with the way they operate. And I want
10 to address that and deal with a couple of examples.

11 We believe that being a good neighbor is being in
12 compliance with regulation and, honestly, trying to anticipate
13 and exceed those.

14 Professional Swine Management has an excellent track
15 record of compliance with those regulations. And those two
16 examples I want to share.

17 One was Pinnacle Farm that has been brought up in a
18 meeting like this about a truck wash that was on that farm.

19 Number one, Falcon Ridge will not have a truck wash
20 on that farm. Today there are no plans for that. This is an
21 example of how we have worked to comply with regulation.

22 That truck wash had a drainage into a cattle pasture
23 after the washing. It was expected -- it was requested by EPA
24 investigation that that be stored in septic tanks and then pumped
25 out on fields. Problem solved. That was agreed on in a

1 compliance meeting with them and was successfully implemented and
2 managed.

3 Wildcat is another farm that we manage near Durham,
4 Illinois in McDon -- or I'm sorry -- in Hancock County. In that
5 situation a sewer line cleanout, it's called, that comes up out
6 of the ground was hit by a mower and manure came out because it
7 was mowed off.

8 We actually called that in, they came and inspected,
9 and we fixed it. I've got some pictures to show you.

10 And in both of those cases if you are so interested
11 in reading through that literature, there's a large amount of
12 paperwork on any one of those type of events. And I wanted to
13 explain that it's our responsibility to respond to those and to
14 handle those appropriately. And we do have a very solid track
15 record of meeting those, answering the phone, fixing the problem,
16 and carrying it forward.

17 So this is a picture of a cleanout. This would be a
18 barn that would have in ground manure storage just like Falcon
19 Ridge where there would be a concrete structure in the ground to
20 store the manure.

21 And in this situation, a cleanout -- I'm sorry -- a
22 cleanout here is accessed to a sewer line that would run manure
23 from this building underground to this building. Well, that was
24 mowed off at one of the farms. And so that was fixed.

25 And these posts were put in place and obviously

1 corrected with gravel and sight appearance as well.

2 So solving a problem, that's our -- it's our job to
3 do that.

4 Some other items I want to stress is that we do
5 understand those concerns, and so manure storage has always been
6 for greater than six months.

7 There are some farms that were built with aboveground
8 manure storage. That's not going to be the case here. This case
9 will be in ground concrete manure storage. And we will have that
10 storage available for greater than 6 months.

11 So that's in the spring and in the fall application.
12 A few days in the spring and a few days in the fall.

13 We're also using compost for dead animals. And so
14 when we have an animal die on the farm it is not safe for that
15 herd to have an outside company drive up the lane, come to that
16 farm, and carry off the dead animal. We actually prefer to
17 compost them there.

18 So we have a large concrete structure with concrete
19 walls already planned that actually exceeds requirements.

20 And we put a roof over that structure so that we can
21 put those dead animals in sawdust for several months and then
22 allow them to compost and that is then put on the fields.

23 And that organic matter, again, is recorded by our
24 Ph.D. in soil and water conservation and reported where
25 appropriate.

1 This is just a picture of compost and how they are to
2 be maintained. Notice there's some air movement to keep that air
3 moving in that structure and a roof over that structure and
4 sawdust to cover those animals.

5 So in summary I certainly welcome your questions. We
6 do want to be here. I live in Hamilton, Illinois and have for
7 the last eighteen years.

8 We want to be here for a long time. And we are
9 pleased that the farmers of Falcon Ridge have come to us and want
10 us to help them.

11 And we would like to be your neighbor.

12 So that's -- oh. I'm sorry. I do have a few more.
13 I'll be real quick. I still got time.

14 I wanted to throw a few examples out of what we try
15 to do as a neighbor. We planted -- and this is just last year.
16 So on these farms we're planting Austrees, which are a fast
17 growing tree, and some shrubs for appearance.

18 On these farms when we have a pond or maybe make a
19 pond for surface water, we actually have also stocked those. So
20 in 2014 we stocked over 3,000 fish at these various different
21 sites.

22 These are some pictures of community involvement in
23 Carthage. This, again, is our office and some of our team
24 members and what they're doing within the community. Being
25 involved in the food bank, providing volunteer locally, and also

1 providing the meat through our local locker.

2 I want to speak to the economics, and I'm sorry, I
3 thought I was done earlier, but I want to share this to you if
4 you'd bear with me for a few more minutes.

5 We took the Adams County tax bill from one of the
6 other farms that we manage located in Adams County and we made
7 some assumptions on the township where this is proposed.

8 We laid the investment of this farm with the tax bill
9 for the other farm and came up with this data.

10 I want to share it because it's -- this is more
11 operational economic data, but the tax bill is something that
12 goes directly into the community.

13 So a 14 million dollar investment is expected.

14 We already mentioned the corn.

15 The acres is approximately 940 acres. If we project
16 175 bushel we -- we actually apply based on the crops.

17 The fertilizer value is about \$164,000. We don't
18 recoup all of that. We're putting that into the ground. And
19 that farmer raising that crop of course is getting that.

20 The number of employees is 18 to 20.

21 And we would estimate that payroll to be around
22 \$750,000 per year. That also includes health benefits. And that
23 is a good paying job for the producer, the people raising the
24 pigs.

25 Here is the tax bill. I'm sorry. I got distracted.

1 This is basically an estimate that is off of our current rates
2 from the county where we would expect -- and you folks on the
3 County Board would know these numbers better than me.

4 But the bottom line is at the minimum side 70,000.
5 With 40,000 of that going to the local school
6 district.

7 Approximately, if we add a couple of these together,
8 going into the township is what I was looking at for the road and
9 -- the road district, and the permanent roads, and then the
10 township rock and bridge, I think that makes sense, if some of
11 you can put those together.

12 And the others. Fire and the -- to the county and so
13 forth.

14 So we believe that it's evident that this will also
15 be a good contributor to the community.

16 So PSM has an excellent track record. We believe
17 that we have a good relationship and work hard to maintain that
18 relationship.

19 I mentioned to some of you board members it's our
20 phone number on the sign at the entrance to those farms. So we
21 are the ones on call 24/7 and we are the ones that are making
22 ourselves available. And that's also to you.

23 So if you do have more questions about us, or about
24 the operation, or about Falcon Ridge, certainly we would welcome
25 those.

1 Thank you. That's it for my presentation.

2 MR. FELDMANN: Thank you, Dr. Hollis.

3 Again, my name is Terry Feldmann. I'm a licensed
4 professional engineer, specifically an agricultural engineer.
5 Grew up on a diversified livestock and grain farm here in
6 Illinois. And that's kind of my background. A University of
7 Illinois grad.

8 Part of a company out of Peoria, Maurer-Stutz, where
9 we have several different engineering disciplines, including the
10 agricultural specialization where we work with a lot of livestock
11 farms.

12 And so this is our business, helping put together the
13 design for these farms and help them through the -- with the
14 permitting assistance and making sure that things get done right,
15 including the nutrient management side of things.

16 So I'm going to go through -- basically tonight our
17 goal is to give testimony on the 8 siting criteria mentioned in
18 the Act. So I'm going to kind of go through those. I'll start
19 with a little bit of an overview and then give that testimony
20 about the specific 8 siting criteria. Some of them have some
21 overlap, but kind of got to overlap to make sure you have the
22 bases covered.

23 So Dr. Hollis went over some of this. It's a farrow
24 to wean facility. So that just means that they have sows and
25 they're weaning piglets out at -- pretty small fellows. You

1 know. Twelve pounds or something like that.

2 So most of the piglets on the farm are -- most of the
3 animals on the farm are piglets.

4 But there's a farrowing. It has the, as Mr. Goetsch
5 mentioned, the shallow pit. Just two foot deep.

6 The gestation and the gilt developer/isolation
7 building has a ten foot pit.

8 And then this little holding room. It's basically a
9 load out room where the pigs can stay there before they -- after
10 they're weaned for about a day or less before they get loaded to
11 go back to the farms in Iowa.

12 So these -- the shallow pits, their main storage is
13 going to be to drain their manure into the deeper pits. The 10
14 foot deep ones.

15 This is kind of a conceptual layout, I guess, if you
16 will.

17 To the north is the gilt developer and isolation
18 building.

19 And then this is where the sows gestate in this
20 bigger barn.

21 This is where they give birth in the farrowing
22 building.

23 A little office down here with the shower in and
24 shower out.

25 And then over here when the pigs are weaned from

1 farrowing they go into this and then the trucks will back up to
2 load pigs out here.

3 This is an example of just of what the -- the gilt
4 developers as the -- some of the piglets grow.

5 And then a typical gestation building.

6 And a little farrowing pen.

7 And then this is a little nursery piglet pen.

8 The 8 siting criteria, just real briefly.

9 Whether or not the registration and certification
10 requirements have been met.

11 Point number -- Criteria 2 is design, location, and
12 operation standards.

13 3. Compatibility with the location.

14 Criteria 4 mainly deals with floodplain and aquifer
15 protection.

16 5. Minimizing impacts to the environment.

17 Odor control plans.

18 That traffic patterns, minimizing impacts on existing
19 traffic.

20 And number 8. The facility's consistent with the
21 development of the area.

22 Those summarize. The actual paragraphs of each of
23 those criteria are a little bit longer and more wordy, but I'll
24 go through that.

25 So Criteria Number 1, there's really two parts off

1 it.

2 The first is about the Notice of Intent to Construct,
3 which is NOITC as we call it in brief, it was submitted on March
4 20th. Mr. Goetsch mentioned they received it on the 23rd of
5 March.

6 They deemed it complete on April 15th.

7 The setback requirements are met. We have like 2,380
8 feet to the nearest occupied residence, and for this size
9 facility 1,760 feet is required.

10 And there's not a populated area within the populated
11 area setback, which is 3,520 feet.

12 Following the Department's determination that it was
13 complete on April 15th, we caused a mailing by certified mail to
14 the property owners that were on the list within the notice,
15 which are those within 3,520 feet of the proposed facility. We
16 sent that out on April 24th. And sent that, the mail receipts,
17 on over to the Department subsequently.

18 This is the map that was mailed with the notice, as
19 part of the Notice of Intent to Construct and showing the
20 Facility down this private road here.

21 Right here.

22 And then the residential setback map. And you can
23 see there are no residences within that residential setback of
24 seventeen hundred and some odd feet.

25 This is a farmstead here, but there's no house.

1 This is an old house, but it's a non-occupied
2 residence, meaning no one's lived there for six months out of the
3 last two years.

4 And then this is a farm residence here. And that's
5 the closest one at twenty-three hundred and some feet.

6 Then we have the -- this larger line is the populated
7 area setback. And you can have a populated area by several
8 different methods. One is whether or not there are ten non-farm
9 residences within this. Well, there's not even ten residences
10 within this. So we don't have a populated area by the number of
11 residences.

12 The other is whether there's a common place of
13 assembly, such as a non-farm business, a church, school,
14 somewhere where you have fifty people per week or more frequent.
15 And we don't have any of those within this populated area setback
16 either.

17 So part 2 of Siting Criteria 1 has to do with the
18 waste management plan.

19 And according to the Livestock Management Facilities
20 Act, a facility which exceeds 5,000 animal units, which is what
21 this -- no. We're less than 5,000 animals units. Sorry.

22 Let me punt on this one.

23 Less than 5,000 animal units you have to prepare and
24 maintain the same plan. It does not have to be submitted to the
25 Illinois Department of Agriculture.

1 You do, however, have to certify within sixty days
2 that a plan has been prepared and will be maintained. So you
3 have to send that certification into the Department.

4 The plan has to be made available for Illinois
5 Department of Agriculture inspections. You know. So they check
6 and see if you have your records and that sort of thing.

7 But anyway, it's not required prior to construction
8 and it's sixty days after you place the pigs in the Facility.

9 And then -- so a couple more parts of the waste
10 management plan.

11 Some of the things that it will include is the annual
12 manure production calculations.

13 Targeting crop yields. You know. If it's going to
14 be 175 bushel an acre of corn or what have you.

15 Manure analysis for the nutrient content of the
16 manure. How much nitrogen, phosphorous. Probably have potassium
17 also. That will be reported.

18 And then it will have the agronomic loading or
19 application rates. How many gallons per acre that can be applied
20 to provide the nutrients for that crop.

21 And then various land application provisions,
22 including the setback areas, such as if you're applying manure
23 within a quarter mile of a residence it will have to be injected
24 or incorporated that same day.

25 There's setbacks to like surface water, wells, and

1 that sort of thing. And all those things required in the
2 regulations will be in the plan.

3 And also, like I mentioned, the recordkeeping.

4 The plan is currently under development. Our company
5 has been hired to develop that plan for them as well.

6 And currently the Facility has about 1,100 acres
7 under easement from farmers right around that area to -- for land
8 application of the manure. And it will probably require -- well,
9 you saw Dr. Hollis's earlier, about 940 acres. It will vary a
10 little bit depending on crop yields and that sort of thing.
11 Right in that area. Maybe around a thousand acres. So we may
12 actually have -- utilize a few more acres than that, but we've
13 got enough at this point.

14 The farm will keep the waste management plan and
15 records of utilization on the farm.

16 And as I mentioned, they'll be available for the
17 Illinois Department of Agriculture inspections.

18 So those two parts are Criteria 1.

19 Criteria 2 deals with -- asks the question, "Will the
20 design, the location, and the proposed operation be consistent
21 with the guidelines outlined in the Livestock Management
22 Facilities Act?"

23 Yes. And I'll explain why. Let's cover the facility
24 design part of things first.

25 First, the facility's being designed by our firm, by

1 a group of licensed professional engineers, as well as licensed
2 structural engineers for the structural part.

3 The design is going to be based on the Livestock
4 Management Facilities Act, which requires either standards like
5 the American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers, or
6 Midwest Plan Service.

7 We're also following other things in the Act.
8 There's a site investigation being done under the direction of a
9 licensed professional engineer, yours truly, according to the
10 regulations, Illinois Administrative Code 506.302, which
11 basically -- well, I'll go into that. I have some other slides
12 for that.

13 But that work has all been done. The report's pretty
14 well ready and all those requirements are met.

15 The manure containment is going to be all in
16 reinforced concrete pits with reinforcing steel, waterstops and
17 everything, according to Midwest Plan Service, as well as the
18 American Concrete Institute 318 building code requirements for
19 reinforced concrete.

20 And so further on the design requirements are the
21 concrete storage. Those pits are going to provide, depending on
22 how much wash orders is actually used, you know, 8, maybe 9
23 months worth of storage. The regulations only require five
24 months. So we're exceeding that.

25 All the joints, whether they be control joints, cold

1 joints with your concrete will have waterstops to prevent any
2 seepage of liquids. Providing complete containment.

3 The pit walls with appropriately sized concrete
4 footings. They'll be 8 inches thick by 10 foot tall for deep
5 pits, and 8 inches thick by 2 foot tall for the shallow pits.

6 And here's just some typical drawing from this
7 project. You can see in the wall there we have reinforcing
8 steel, vertical. We have a dowel into the footing. We have
9 horizontal steel, those little dots there.

10 We have -- in the floor slab we have waterstops like
11 this one, or this base seal here at the joint locations.

12 And then also in the wall we will have some vertical
13 control joints, and/or construction joints in places. And
14 they'll look like this one. It will be a center in wall PVC
15 waterstop vertically down that joint.

16 Here's a couple of pictures of those, if those
17 diagrams didn't much as much sense.

18 But this is an example here of a vertical waterstop
19 where the wall's going to be poured eventually. And that goes
20 down into the footing to meet a waterstop that goes out into the
21 rest of the concrete slab where there's a control joint.

22 Underneath the wall you can see this swell stop,
23 waterstop, and it runs underneath where -- underneath where the
24 wall will be.

25 And at the location of this vertical joint it

1 actually gets wrapped around that waterstop.

2 This picture here you can see the rebar sticking out.

3 This part of the wall has been poured already, it
4 looks like. And there's a waterstop underneath the wall here
5 that you can see.

6 And then this -- there's a piece of PVC. Half of it
7 sticking in the concrete that's already been poured, and then the
8 other half is sticking out that's going to stick into the
9 concrete for the next concrete pour.

10 This is a picture of the floor. What we call a base
11 seal waterstop for the control joints in the floor.

12 This is a bigger picture of these here where you kind
13 of see a grid of those, as well as the steel up on chairs in the
14 floor slab waiting for the concrete to be poured like it is back
15 here.

16 And then over here there's an example of a typical
17 concrete pour. You have your vertical dowels here, which will go
18 up into the wall to be poured later.

19 Also with Criteria 2, here's a FEMA 100 year
20 floodplain map. We are way up out of the floodplain. There's no
21 floodplain here where the site location is. It's I think 50 feet
22 or above the Missouri Creek.

23 Also part of Criteria 2, this is a map called --
24 well, we call it IMPAP-8 by the Illinois State Geologic Survey.

25 And this part of the map, this is just a portion of

1 it, shows karst regions. And this is Adams County here. And we
2 do have part of a karst region in part of the county, but not up
3 where the site's to be located.

4 This is another part of that same map called -- or
5 that outlines many different things. The site's to be located
6 here, so it's not where any of these green areas or sinkhole
7 areas are. Those would be karst areas where those -- if you see
8 some green dots like over here, those are karst areas. We don't
9 have any karst areas.

10 It's also, that kind of gray color there, which is
11 predominantly non-carbonate bedrock, karst features are typically
12 formed in carbonate bedrock like limestone or dolomite. And up
13 in this part of the county up here we don't have carbonate
14 bedrock.

15 So we're not in a karst area, is what that boils down
16 to.

17 Criteria 2 is a long one, so just a couple of other
18 things on it.

19 We also looked at the soils. We had soil borings
20 done. And the existing subsoil is a silty clay. It isn't sand
21 or gravel. There's no aquifer material within 5 foot of the
22 planned bottom of the facility.

23 What we did find is a dense layer of silty clay and
24 glacial till.

25 We did, however, find that there would be a seasonal

1 high water table. Not an aquifer, but just a perched water table
2 up above that real dense glacial till layer.

3 So we will have to put in a perimeter drainage
4 system, which is very typical, which will have a monitoring port
5 and have to be monitored according to the regulations at Illinois
6 Administrative Code 900.511, which means that you'll -- this is
7 an example of a monitoring port around there.

8 Basically like you would for a basement you put a
9 perforated drainage system along the outside of the building,
10 along the foundation, so it will carry water away and not cause
11 those additional hydrostatic forces on your pits.

12 It will be monitored. And this is an example of a
13 monitoring port coming up where they can take -- take a sample
14 out of this vertical tube here. And they'll have to check that
15 at least quarterly, four times a year. And if there's water,
16 they have to sample it, send the water samples to a lab and get
17 it analyzed for certain criteria such as ammonia, nitrogen, and
18 chlorides and that sort of thing. And then we send them into the
19 Illinois Department of Agriculture.

20 Almost done with Criteria 2, but the last thing is to
21 deal with the proposed operation. As I mentioned, all the manure
22 is going to be stored in concrete tanks or pits. And it will be
23 injected or incorporated into the cropland at agronomic rates for
24 use as organic fertilizer.

25 And that will be done by a -- under the supervision

1 of a certified livestock manager. So somebody will have to have
2 gone through both a class and for this size facility they'll also
3 have to pass an exam. Similar to like a pesticide applicator's
4 license. But they'll have to do that. I think Mr. Beaver puts
5 on half a dozen or so of those training courses every year.

6 Also, moving on, finally, to Criteria 3.

7 Criteria 3 asks whether the location of the facility
8 minimizes incompatibility with the surrounding area's character
9 by being located in any area zoned for agriculture where the
10 county has zoning, or where the county is not zoned the setback
11 requirements established by the Livestock Management Facilities
12 Act are complied with.

13 Well, my understanding is that Adams County doesn't
14 have zoning. And this is a non-zoned area. So basically we'll
15 tell you how it meets the requirements of the Livestock
16 Management Facilities Act since there's not zoning and how it's
17 compatible.

18 First of all, it's located in a very agricultural
19 area. There's other livestock production in the area.

20 It complies with the setback requirements for things
21 like wells, residences, populated areas that I kind of went
22 through already in Criteria 1.

23 And that the Department of Agriculture deemed that
24 notice to be complete on April 15th, 2015.

25 Here's the site again. You can see a bunch of trees

1 to the north of the facility, and even back to the west, and some
2 to the east.

3 This is the township road here. And it sits back off
4 of the -- off of the public road -- it's well over a quarter
5 mile. It's not quite a half mile, but it's over a quarter mile.

6 So it's a really good site from that perspective.

7 This is just a zoomed out version of the location of
8 the site with location compatibility. And you can't see it
9 really great, but there's a red dashed line around here.

10 And that red dashed line is, just for a point of
11 reference, a frame of reference, is about a mile radius from this
12 site. It's actually a mile from here to here, just about, and to
13 those roads. But if you measure from this edge to this edge it
14 goes out a little bit further each way.

15 But you can see there's -- it sits back off the road.
16 A lot of tree growth to the north and west and east of the site.
17 It's up on a high area. And sits back away from everything.

18 Clayton is down here to the southeast.

19 Okay. Moving on then to Criteria Number 4. It deals
20 with environmental sensitivity. It asks whether the facility is
21 located within a hundred year floodplain, or an otherwise
22 environmentally sensitivity area defined as an area of -- karst
23 area, or with aquifer material within five feet of the bottom of
24 the livestock waste handling facility, and whether construction
25 standards set forth in the Notice of Intent to Construct are

1 consistent with the goal of protecting the safety of the area.

2 So it's not in a hundred year floodplain. It's not
3 in a karst area. I think I already showed you those maps.

4 A little bit more detail on the soil investigation
5 that I referred to earlier. This is one of the soil borings logs
6 that we had done at the proposed facility. There was about a
7 half a dozen of them done and I didn't put them all up here, but
8 just to kind of give you a reference.

9 This one was advanced to about 16 foot below existing
10 ground, which is 10, 11 feet below the planned bottom of the
11 facility.

12 And you can see clay, clay, silty clay loam.

13 And then here a little bit more.

14 And then at about just before 9 foot, 8, eight and a
15 half feet we run into glacial till.

16 And continues on down.

17 So, you know, probably somewhere in the neighborhood
18 of about 8 foot at least of glacial till, which is a very dense
19 -- you can see some of these densities; 106, 107, 105 pounds per
20 cubic foot. Very dense material. Very impermeable material.
21 That's what causes that perched water table above that,
22 especially in the spring. A lot of people call that blue clay.
23 Sometimes it's gray, but sometimes it's brown. But anyway, very
24 often it's a -- it's a blue clay.

25 Environment sensitivity. Continue on this point.

1 The construction standards are consistent with the goal of
2 protecting the safety of the area.

3 Surface water will be diverted away from and around
4 the facility so it doesn't cause -- gets in -- so it doesn't get
5 in the manure pits. Doesn't cause harm to them.

6 It will have detention basins for typical storm
7 water, with pipes and some swales, drainage swales to divert it
8 away. And control the rain and storm water leaving the site so
9 we don't have off site impacts.

10 As I showed and mentioned earlier, too, we're going
11 to follow -- we've met the setbacks. The design's using
12 waterstops and following the standards of Midwest Plan Service,
13 and American Concrete Institute, and American Society of
14 Agricultural & Biological Engineers. Using those, following
15 those standards to protect the groundwater, surface water, and
16 provide that structural integrity.

17 Okay. Finally moving on to number 5. And to read
18 that more fully. Whether the owner/operator has submitted plans
19 for the operation that minimize the likelihood of any
20 environmental damage to the surrounding area from spills, runoff,
21 and leaching.

22 Okay. This deals a lot more typically with the waste
23 management, or manure management plan, the nutrient management
24 plan.

25 So, first of all, this facility is going to help that

1 by having, you know, 8 months worth of storage instead of just 5.
2 And that's going to give them more flexibility so that they can
3 apply manure when soil conditions are appropriate, or optimum as
4 I put in the presentation.

5 And that's going to reduce the potential for
6 leaching.

7 Reduce the potential for runoff.

8 This facility is going to use subsurface injection or
9 incorporation of all of the manure.

10 And that also reduces the likelihood of spills and
11 runoff.

12 Operation plans continued. The manure can be
13 applied. There are some pasture and hayfields, in addition to
14 most of the ground is row crops, and that just gives some added
15 flexibility, you know, if you do have some of those wet springs
16 that you can wait a little bit to put the crops in and -- and you
17 still have a place in the summer then to apply some manure.

18 Again, it will be applied at agronomic rates
19 according to the waste management plan and the regulations.

20 It will be applied when soil conditions are
21 appropriate and at -- when the nutrient levels dictate that
22 application is appropriate.

23 And that, again, reduces the potential for runoff and
24 nutrient leaching.

25 So that's point 5.

1 There's only 8 of these. Did I tell you that?

2 Sorry.

3 Point 6 has to do with whether odor control plans are
4 reasonable and incorporate reasonable or innovative odor
5 reduction technologies given the current state of such
6 technologies.

7 Okay. So I have a few slides on this.

8 And so given the current state of technologies, the
9 odor control plans are reasonable and we incorporate these
10 reduction technologies.

11 Some of the things, and these -- some of these are
12 items out of the American Society of Agriculture & Biological
13 Engineers' standards.

14 For controlling manure odors, you know, one of the
15 things we have is slotted floors throughout. You saw some of the
16 pictures of the facilities. What that does is allow the manure
17 and urine to drop down through and doesn't get spread out over a
18 solid floor, or like what we used to have in what I call the old
19 days, spread out over a concrete lot or a dirt lot over a big
20 large surface area where the sun can cook it and cause a lot of
21 odors.

22 These are -- this manure and stuff is getting down in
23 the liquid, which then contains and control that -- those manure
24 gases and odors within the liquid manure.

25 These guys use regular washing. You know. It's

1 managed by, well, a bunch of people trained by people like Dr.
2 Hollis. So they like things to be very sanitary. Good health of
3 the pigs. That's what they tell me.

4 So that also, though, is helping keep that dust level
5 controlled and the facilities clean. Tremendously minimizes the
6 odor production.

7 A lot of odor research shows that odors -- one of the
8 big transporters of odors away from a facility is dust particles.
9 So things that we can do to minimize that helps tremendously.

10 One of the other biggest helps -- in fact, most of
11 the odor from livestock facilities traditionally, if you look
12 back over the last 20, 30 years, has been from manure
13 application. And of course a lot of that might be people
14 applying it on the surface.

15 Well, so one of the things that tremendously helps
16 that is utilizing manure injection. And that's one of the
17 examples under odor control from the ASABE standards, Engineering
18 Practice 379.2, Section 6.5.1 that we're following here.

19 Also feed management. You know. What they're going
20 to do to balance and optimize nutrients in the diet so that
21 they're not feeding tremendously high excess levels of nutrients.
22 So that will minimize the odor compounds in the manure and then
23 the odor potential of the facility.

24 I think another big one is the location. You know.
25 It's in a very rural area. Agriculture area. Cattle, horses

1 already in the area. I saw sheep. You know. There's other
2 livestock raised out there.

3 But I just show this picture here. The animals will
4 all be raised on slotted floors.

5 Can you see how clean these pigs are here?

6 And the floors?

7 When you don't have manure on the skin of the pigs,
8 that really reduces the odor potential of those animals. Because
9 their bodies are warm. If you have manure, if they're all
10 covered in manure like we used to have all in the old hog
11 wallers, there's a lot of odor potential from that type of
12 production.

13 But this is a lot less.

14 Again, this is a farrowing floor. A little bit
15 better picture. It's all slotted.

16 This plastic part is for under the baby piglets.

17 Manure injection. Here's a picture of most likely
18 how most of the manure -- in fact, this, I believe this operator
19 is based out of Adams County doing this injection manure.

20 But we call it a drag hose or an umbilical cord
21 system. So there's a pump back at the pit at the farm pumping
22 manure through this hose. They just inject, use this injection
23 tool bar behind the tractor. Zig-zag back and forth up and down
24 the fields to inject it below the surface of the soil. So when
25 you do that you tremendously reduce, almost reduce that odor to

1 nothing.

2 A little more on odor control. Has to do more with
3 the location. It complies and exceeds the facility setback
4 requirements as established in the Livestock Management
5 Facilities Act.

6 For this animal unit facility, 1,760 feet from the
7 nearest residence is required. And we've exceeded that by this
8 site location by 620 twenty feet.

9 And populated area is 3,520 feet required. I put
10 that mile radius around there. And even the mile radius around
11 the facility, there's not 10 non-farm residences or any
12 businesses within even up to a mile from this facility.

13 So -- I'm not sure if I have that slide here again.

14 Additional things. The farm will utilize regular
15 maintenance to reduce odors generated by the facility and
16 minimize dust originating. We've kind of covered that.

17 Then the maintenance will include routine visual
18 walkthroughs of the facilities to make sure there's no manure
19 buildup above the slotted floors and walkways.

20 And make sure the regular cleaning of things like
21 fans and that sort of thing are done to control dust buildup.

22 Other things. It will be -- the facility is
23 thoroughly pressure washed and sanitized between each production
24 cycle to minimize the odor.

25 And the farm will ensure that the fans operate

1 appropriate, efficiently to minimize the dust buildup.

2 Because regular facility maintenance is known to
3 reduce odor concentrations and odor intensity.

4 So here's a little bit more signs of odor transport.
5 What I did was, one of the things we did was looked at wind rows,
6 wind data from a couple of different areas.

7 And I put up one of the examples. It happens to be
8 the Peoria wind data from Illinois State Climatologist's office.

9 Also looked at Springfield and looked at St. Louis.

10 And they're all pretty similar, particularly the
11 Peoria and St. Louis, which we believe probably to be the most
12 representative of this area over here.

13 I'm sorry. The closest two are Springfield and
14 Peoria.

15 St. Louis is very similar.

16 All of them had the most -- most of the frequent wind
17 was out of the south blowing to the north.

18 And also the stronger winds were out of the south
19 blowing to the north.

20 So those give both the percentage of time.

21 When you do odor modeling, or you think of odor, it's
22 going to be north of the facility because of those two things.

23 Most odor is disbursed vertically. But when you're
24 downwind of a facility, it maintains a very narrow path or plume.
25 It doesn't spread out horizontally very far. It spreads out

1 vertically.

2 So, you know, if a building is 300 hundred foot long,
3 or the site is 300 hundred foot long, then your odor plume is
4 about 300 hundred foot wide, you know, downstream of the -- or
5 downwind of the Facility.

6 So one of the things that we did then is there's a
7 fairly simple modeling program that was put together, oh, 15
8 years ago or so, by a fellow by the name of Allen Williams. He
9 retired from the Illinois State Border Survey.

10 This model is specific to swine facilities. It gives
11 you the ability to put in the number of head, as well as the type
12 of each.

13 So I was able to put in the number of farrowing sows,
14 the number of piglets, the number of gestating sows. You know.
15 That specifically. And it does -- so these are the numbers that
16 I -- that I used.

17 Now the sows versus the gilts, sometimes the sows
18 will be less and sometimes the gilts might be a little higher, so
19 I kind of used -- I hedged it this way just to have more sows.

20 And these 12,000 piglets that I plug in, again, as I
21 mention earlier, these are like pigs that are going to average
22 weighing -- or they're going to range from weighing, you know,
23 from birth at maybe 3 pounds up to, you know, 10, 12, maybe 15
24 pounds on the high end of things for the most part.

25 Okay. So this model then, it did some predicting,

1 and it provides a couple of different data.

2 Percentages of time.

3 And then the odor descriptions for those. And then
4 -- which is kind of like an intensity or offensiveness. And I'll
5 just kind of go through those.

6 And then for a given percentage of time, what kind of
7 distance from the facility you would expect to have that odor for
8 a given odor level.

9 So the odor level being just perceptible. Let me
10 help put that in perspective.

11 The average person for a just perceptible is going
12 to -- they're going to smell something, but you're not going to
13 know necessarily that it's livestock, pigs, or cattle or, you
14 know, something else. It's something smells a little funny.
15 That's the just perceptible level.

16 Okay?

17 Faint. Now that's a faint level where most people
18 are going to be able to tell, oh, yeah, I smell a little -- I
19 think that's pigs. You know. They'll get that level of
20 intensity. Which some people are going to find offensive. Other
21 people are, you know, are used to it. They grew up in the rural
22 areas and, you know, it's not a real strong pig odor, but you can
23 tell it's probably pigs.

24 And then easily noticeable. Now this is a level that
25 I would say that half the people that experience that level of

1 intensity are going to find it offensive. At least half the
2 people. You're going to know it's pigs for sure and some people
3 are going to want to not be there.

4 So one percent of the time or less you're going to
5 find that level.

6 And then -- I didn't put it on here because it's a
7 lesser distance yet for the frequency of time, but there's also
8 strong odor, of course. But anyway -- as the model predicts.

9 But easily noticeable. Less than a thousand feet.
10 Less than one percent of the time. So that level of odor, it's
11 not going to leave the property around the facility there.

12 Less than one percent of the time, that residence was
13 to the southwest at about twenty-three hundred feet, they might
14 get a faint odor at that residence to the southwest.

15 However, these distances are also predicted for the
16 worse or the most extreme cases.

17 So these are as if -- these will be to the north of
18 the facility.

19 So if you're thinking of any other direction than
20 west -- or than north, like to the west or south or east, these
21 distances are going to be less than any of those other directions
22 because of the frequency of time of wind blowing from those
23 directions and the intensity of the wind from those directions.

24 So -- and that's why, one of the reasons I think this
25 is a good site. Because to the north, there's nobody up there to

1 the north for a long ways. And we have all of these trees. And
2 so from that standpoint it's a good site.

3 So then the just perceptible level where you can
4 smell something, but most people aren't going to be able to tell,
5 it's not very offensive, it's a low, low level of odor, less than
6 one percent of the time you might experience that level of odor
7 at a little over six thousand feet from the facility.

8 And then less than five percent of the time just
9 perceptible levels at about seventeen hundred feet from the
10 facility.

11 So this again is that diagram with the one mile
12 radius. I just put it in here again to show the trees.

13 Here's the site. And sorry. The way this lighting
14 is it isn't showing up real great. But all the trees and just no
15 residences up here to the north in excess of a mile.

16 And then just because of that point earlier, I think
17 I counted the number of residences within a mile. We must have
18 one here.

19 One, two, three, four, five, six, maybe seven. I'm
20 not sure if that one makes it.

21 Eight, nine.

22 I think there's only nine residences within a mile
23 radius of where the site's proposed currently. And most of those
24 are farm residences.

25 Okay. So that's what I have on point 6, which is

1 odor control.

2 Moving on to point 7. Asks whether traffic patterns
3 minimize the effect on existing traffic flows.

4 Okay. So this bottom green line is Highway 24. A
5 state highway. Eighty thousand pound route. It gets a pretty
6 fair amount of traffic.

7 The truck traffic, and probably most of the car
8 traffic, but at least all of the truck traffic is going to be
9 designated to go up this road, which is East 2700, come up here
10 to 2000, and then go about half a mile over to the facility
11 entrance, and then on up back to this private road here.

12 That's where most of the traffic will go.

13 And it's about ten semi trucks a week on average to
14 supply feed, transport animals to and from the farm, that sort of
15 thing.

16 All right. We looked up a little bit of the data
17 that I-DOT had from 2014. They reported on East 2700th Street
18 they had about 125 cars per day. We're predicting in the range
19 of maybe ten or twelve cars per day for workers and stuff from
20 the facility, that additional traffic there.

21 Which is summarized again. Ten, twelve passenger
22 cars, or trucks.

23 And then the semis, or feed trucks, and animal
24 trucks, is about ten per week.

25 And Falcon Ridge Farms will comply with seasonal

1 posted weight limits just like all the rest of the traffic and
2 everybody else in the community.

3 So that's traffic.

4 Criteria Number 8. This is kind of a long paragraph
5 and a bit confusing.

6 It asks whether construction, or modification of a
7 new facility, is consistent with the existing community growth,
8 tourism, recreation, or economic development, or with specific
9 projects involving community growth, tourism, recreation, or
10 economic development that have been identified by governmental
11 action for the development or operation within one year through
12 compliance with applicable zoning and setback requirements for
13 populated areas as established by the Livestock Management
14 Facilities Act.

15 So really kind of goes back to that 3,500 foot radius
16 from the facility, which is the populated area setback.

17 And I don't have that here again, so I am going to
18 flip back to it.

19 You can see this red line. This is not 3,500, but
20 this is a mile. And you can see it pretty much is on land
21 controlled by the fellows selling the facility to -- or the
22 property to the Falcon Ridge Farms.

23 So Falcon Ridge Farms is located in an agriculture
24 area. You know, I showed you that slide again. It's cropland,
25 pastures, livestock production.

1 It's in an area which is not zoned, which is -- and
2 that's because Adams County doesn't have zoning.

3 Falcon Ridge Farms is in compliance with the setback
4 requirements for populated areas according to the Act. That's
5 that 3,520 feet.

6 Some of the other things, Dr. Hollis had a similar
7 discussion about property taxes from Falcon Ridge Farms. This
8 just gives you kind of a little pie chart.

9 And these are the tax rates on the assessed value
10 from I think 2004 from this website here.

11 And about 3.6, as you can see, goes to School
12 District 3.

13 And then some other percentages here like to the
14 county, Clayton Township, the community college, and others from
15 there.

16 And that's it.

17 MR. FRANK: Thank you. I'll enter into the record as
18 Exhibit Number 3 a copy of the presentation from the Facility
19 representatives.

20 We will now open the meeting for any questions that
21 you may have of the Facility or of the Department.

22 If you have a question that you would like to ask,
23 please raise your hand, and when called upon please state your
24 name and spell your last name.

25 Please indicate to whom you are directing your

1 question.

2 I will remind you that this portion of the meeting
3 will be limited to questions only.

4 After this question and answer session, there will be
5 a session dedicated to public testimony where you can provide
6 your oral comments.

7 So please limit this session to questions only.

8 Also, keep in mind that questions need to pertain to
9 this particular facility.

10 Okay. Are there any questions?

11 Yes, sir.

12 LYLE NICHOLS: Lyle Nichols, N-i-c-h-o-l-s. I'm a
13 member of the Adams County Board.

14 I think Mr. Feldmann said that the East 2700th Road
15 on your map is going to be the primary road to this facility.
16 And then the road goes I think to the east. And it looked like
17 it said it was a county road.

18 I think Dr. Hollis said one was a township road and
19 one was a county road?

20 If that's the case, have you talked with the county
21 highway engineer?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Those are both township and --

23 MR. FRANK: Just a --

24 MR. NICHOLS: Township roads?

25 MR. FELDMANN: I believe they are both township

1 roads. I don't know that for sure.

2 The map seemed to have them labeled as county roads.
3 And I don't know why, you know, Google Maps or whoever the heck
4 they are labeled them as county roads, but I don't believe they
5 are. I think they're township roads.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They're township roads.

7 MR. FRANK: Is there another question?

8 MR. POST: I have one.

9 MR. FRANK: Mr. Post.

10 MR. POST: Les Post, P-o-s-t.

11 Several times in your presentation you mentioned that
12 there's no zoning in Adams County, but there is zoning in some of
13 the villages of the county.

14 Are you in compliance with the setback of any and all
15 of those?

16 MR. FELDMANN: I don't know about any specific zoning
17 in any villages that would be applicable to a livestock facility,
18 so I guess I can't really speak on that.

19 MR. POST: Most of the villages have a mile and a
20 half zoning around the villages at this point. Just wondering if
21 you were in compliance with that.

22 DR. HOLLIS: Falcon Ridge will meet or exceed that,
23 if necessary.

24 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir. Could you state your name and
25 spell it, please?

1 MR. DeMOSS: The veterinarian said --

2 MR. FRANK: Could you state your name and spell it,
3 please?

4 MR. DeMOSS: Yeah. Sam DeMoss. S-a-m D-e-M-o-s-s.

5 I have a question for the veterinarian.

6 You said your employees were at this meeting tonight?

7 Did you say you had some here that work for you?

8 DR. HOLLIS: There are some employees from

9 Professional Swine Management --

10 MR. DeMOSS: That work in --

11 DR. HOLLIS: -- here tonight.

12 MR. DeMOSS: -- in the confinements?

13 DR. HOLLIS: There are some employees, yes, sir.

14 MR. DeMOSS: Did you pay them to come to the meeting?

15 DR. HOLLIS: No, sir.

16 MR. DeMOSS: No, sir.

17 And I have one other question, sir.

18 Me, I'm a town board trustee in Clayton. This has
19 been brought to our attention by our Mayor, by anybody, from May
20 the 4th at our least meeting when we became aware of it.

21 And we have control over a mile and a half of zoning
22 around Clayton to the residence and at the edge of town.

23 So we would appreciate if you folks would come and --
24 would have come and approached us, too, about this before you had
25 this public hearing.

1 DR. HOLLIS: I know that the Mayor of Clayton was
2 contacted by Ted Ufkes, our Chief Operating Officer. And we are,
3 again, working to meet or exceed any requirements.

4 And we were not made aware of that mile and a half
5 that you the spoke of at that time, but the property owner, as
6 you can tell by the map that we're working with, has more than
7 sufficient ground to meet or exceed that.

8 MR. DeMOSS: May I ask him another question, please?

9 MR. FRANK: Yes.

10 MR. DeMOSS: In the Herald-Whig paper you said you
11 was a mile and a quarter from the City of Clayton, our
12 jurisdiction. Our mile and a half -- our jurisdiction covers a
13 mile and a half on zoning.

14 Have you -- I mean, Mr. Ufkes, I would like to know
15 when he approached Mr. Miller about, our Mayor, about this. If
16 you could answer that.

17 DR. HOLLIS: I can't give you a specific day, sir. I
18 know -- I know those are ongoing conversations. And it's
19 certainly our expectation that we're going to meet or exceed any
20 municipality or county requirement as well.

21 And tonight's purposes are to -- to show that and
22 explain that to the Department of Agriculture.

23 And so we're -- we're working to assure that we're
24 meeting or exceeding all of those requirements.

25 To answer your original question, I don't know the

1 specific date or time, but it was much earlier in this -- in this
2 process as far as I'm aware.

3 MR. DeMOSS: Thank you.

4 MR. FRANK: Are there other questions?

5 Yes, sir. Mr. Nichols?

6 MR. NICHOLS: Yes. Lyle Nichols again.

7 I thought, Dr. Hollis, you mentioned that the pigs
8 were going to be finished in Iowa, but then I thought later you
9 said they're going to be finished by the farmers in Adams County.

10 I'm a little bit confused about that.

11 DR. HOLLIS: I appreciate the question and I'll try
12 to explain it more specifically.

13 The farm, Falcon Ridge Farms, is a sow farm to
14 produce baby pigs. It is a partnership. As an operation, the
15 14 million dollars is a partnership, an LLC company, that is
16 funded and owned by those farmers. Both some in Illinois and
17 some in Iowa.

18 The baby pigs produced from Falcon Ridge Farms are
19 all going to be trucked and fed to farms in Iowa.

20 And so those producers that are feeding the pigs that
21 are produced at Falcon Ridge are in Iowa. So that the pigs will
22 not be fed around the farm. They will be produced and then
23 trucked from the farm as weaned pigs.

24 Does that answer your question?

25 MR. NICHOLS: It does. Thank you.

1 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir.

2 MR. SMITH: I'm Henry Smith. I live at 2609 North
3 1950 Avenue, which is on your map. It's the closest house to
4 your operation.

5 Eighteen years ago I questioned the soil sampling of
6 the impact of the soil around the area. Because I had a pond dug
7 eighteen years ago. He went down less than eighteen feet and his
8 bulldozer went down into a sand dune.

9 So is that sand dune just at that little place of
10 mine or does it go on out?

11 I don't know because I'm no expert.

12 But there is a sand dune under my pond.

13 And I question the soil testings of your operation.
14 I'm not against you. I just question the soil because of the
15 sand dune underneath that soil.

16 Because I was told by the -- the -- the guy that dug
17 my pond, he had to have a tow truck come up from Liberty to pull
18 him out and his bulldozer was under -- it was half covered with
19 sand.

20 That's my question.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And this was a new pond.

22 MR. FRANK: Okay. Let's have an answer to the
23 question.

24 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

25 MR. FELDMANN: Thank you. That's a good question.

1 I think what you're referring to is what we call a
2 sand pocket that I've seen at other project sites, not
3 necessarily your area or around Clayton here, but in other parts
4 of the state that are typically found within glacial till layers.

5 You know. When the glaciers were here many, many
6 moons ago, you know, they pushed soils and they compacted soils
7 and -- and some of those areas they did have these sand pockets.

8 And on another project I had a very similar
9 experience to you where it was a -- there were different size
10 pockets. But they were all, you know, confined. There was silty
11 clay soils around them, but the sand was -- once you hit it it
12 was very wet and the water was confined in that pocket.

13 But, yes, it would bury a -- a very large bulldozer.

14 MR. SMITH: Can I follow-up on it?

15 How long -- do you know how far that sand dune goes
16 out?

17 You said you tested the ground up there. How far
18 away from my place, which I -- we're less than a -- we're less
19 than a -- we're the house that you see the picture of there on
20 the side, right -- you know -- the closest house to your
21 operation.

22 MR. FELDMANN: Yeah. About two-thirds or
23 three-quarters of a mile, probably.

24 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir. But how far will that dune,
25 sand dune reach out?

1 You have no answer to that, do you, or do you?

2 MR. FELDMANN: No. I don't know how far your sand
3 dune is. I can say with almost certainty that it doesn't stretch
4 over across to the Falcon Ridge, you know, facility based mostly
5 on the given topography of existing water courses and whatnot in
6 the area between that site and over to where you're talking
7 about.

8 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

9 MR. FRANK: Mr. Anderson?

10 MR. ANDERSON: Nic Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

11 Terry, I know you showed the soil samples, and that
12 was one example.

13 How many did you actually do on that site to get a --

14 MR. FELDMANN: I think I mentioned that we did six
15 different borings spread throughout that site. I didn't put them
16 all up there just because it saved time.

17 They were all very similar in their soils. They
18 found the glacial tilt area at different layers, or different
19 elevations. You know. Some closer to the surface, some a little
20 bit deeper.

21 MR. ANDERSON: And I guess the other part of the
22 question for the Department of Ag.

23 Mr. Goetsch, when -- when somebody builds over
24 aquifer material or -- are they prohibited from doing that or --
25 and I -- what I'm trying to get at is the rigid structure that

1 they're going to build these pits out of, does that address -- if
2 there was aquifer material or sand material there, is that -- is
3 that an alternative design to address that issue if it should
4 exist?

5 MR. GOETSCH: Yes. If the -- the Act would not -- or
6 the -- the provisions of the Act are such that if aquifer
7 material was found, construction of the site would not be
8 prohibited; it would just be required to be built to a different
9 standard.

10 It does happen, however, in this particular case,
11 that that standard that it would be, that enhanced standard that
12 would be required is the standard that they're proposing.
13 They're proposing to build a structure that is of rigid material
14 and that would qualify.

15 So regardless of whether sand would be present or
16 not, it would not change the requirement for the design standard
17 that they're going to be required to meet.

18 MR. FRANK: Are there other questions?

19 Yes, sir.

20 MR. MOORE: Dean Moore, M-o-o-r-e.

21 My question is for Bill. You mentioned eighteen to
22 twenty potential employees? After it's up and running, is that
23 correct?

24 DR. HOLLIS: Yes. And so it's a breeding, gestation,
25 and farrowing. So in the first four or five months you'll have

1 about half of that crew because you won't have any farrowing.

2 But by the end of the first six months you'll have
3 twenty employees at that farm. Certainly eighteen will be
4 full-time and possibly as many as twenty full-time.

5 MR. MOORE: Is there any assurances that those hires
6 might be -- what percentage would be local new hires, you know,
7 that would directly benefit the community?

8 DR. HOLLIS: We have job fairs routinely in the
9 communities that we work with -- work in. And so, absolutely, we
10 would welcome local individuals to apply. And honestly have some
11 employees. Of those 431 employees, there would be some that live
12 in Adams County and live in that area.

13 So we would -- we would welcome people and we would
14 hold job fairs in those small burgs and townships and areas where
15 we would locate the farm.

16 I appreciate the question because it's something that
17 -- that we believe very strongly is valuable in agriculture.

18 And unfortunately when I came here in 1996 there were
19 a lot of dads that didn't have a son that was going to stay back
20 and farm. And I believe that economic condition has changed.
21 And agriculture is actually thriving in many of these small
22 communities and -- and we are strongly in support of that. So I
23 appreciate the question.

24 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir?

25 MR. STERLING: Eric Sterling, S-t-e-r-l-i-n-g. My

1 question is for Mr. Feldmann.

2 You had mentioned with the proprietary feed and the
3 slotted floors you're going to be able to take the smell of
4 twenty thousand pigs and reduce the odor to just about nothing?

5 I want to know what your credentials are for making a
6 statement like that.

7 MR. FELDMANN: I think you mischaracterized what I --
8 what I stated.

9 But I'm an agriculture engineer. Educated and
10 licensed as such. And that's my credentials.

11 MR. FRANK: Are there other questions?

12 Yes, sir.

13 MR. WHITE: Jeff White, W-h-i-t-e.

14 Mr. Feldmann, what the gentleman just previously
15 looked at, if I understand this correctly, was a study done by
16 the individual that worked for the State of Illinois.

17 You simply plugged the animal unit numbers in. Those
18 are not your numbers representing one percent, one percent, five
19 percent, or one percent, correct?

20 MR. FELDMANN: That's correct. Yeah. The model was
21 developed by other people, you know, funded by State of Illinois
22 money.

23 And so I just simply plugged the right numbers of
24 animals into the program. And it was pretty simple.

25 I do have the training and course knowledge behind

1 modeling, you know, from the University of Illinois in -- in
2 course work I took there, but I didn't do any of that modeling
3 development.

4 MR. WHITE: I am not questioning that. I just
5 wondered if I was interpreting what you had put up there
6 correctly.

7 MR. FELDMANN: You are correct.

8 MR. FRANK: Other questions?

9 Yes. Mr. Nichols?

10 MR. NICHOLS: This is for Mr. Feldmann.

11 This is the third hearing like this that I've
12 attended, and there always has seemed to have been a discussion
13 about knifed in manure and if it causes odor or not. And we've
14 had some pretty heated debates among all the people in the room
15 before that.

16 What assurances can you give all of us that what you
17 said is actually going to be -- going to be true?

18 MR. FELDMANN: Well, I think the proof is in the
19 pudding. If you want to see what the level of the odor is, you
20 have to do like I have and stood out behind the applicator when
21 it's being applied, or go by there, you know, a day later.

22 You know. There can be a little bit of odor, you
23 know, that same day when the manure is being injected, but my
24 experience has been, you know, when it's injected below the
25 surface, you know, it doesn't last more than a day.

1 DR. HOLLIS: Mr. Nichols, is it okay if I answer
2 that, too?

3 MR. NICHOLS: You certainly may.

4 DR. HOLLIS: I asked my son the same question. He's
5 twelve and he's blatantly honest.

6 We have a client farm, it's not a farm we manage, we
7 have a client farm, approximately four thousand feeding pigs.
8 It's about a mile and a half south, directly south of our home.

9 And we also have another client, it's about a mile
10 and a half north and east of our home.

11 And one of those properties is actually just over a
12 mile from the grade school that my son attends. This is in
13 Hamilton.

14 And I asked him that exact same question.

15 And that manure applicator knives in manure on a
16 field that's adjacent to the playground. And my son said that he
17 can smell it that day and not anymore.

18 And so, yeah, I think if you're -- if you're applying
19 manure and you're in an adjacent field you're going to be able to
20 tell that that manure is being applied.

21 And I think that one percent, which is three days out
22 of three hundred and sixty-five, is probably a fair
23 representation of what would be a perceptible but not a difficult
24 odor.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. FRANK: Anyone else?

2 Any questions?

3 Yes. Mr. Nichols?

4 MR. NICHOLS: Yes. I didn't want to set the record
5 for the most questions, but I have a question about the wind
6 analysis that Mr. Feldmann talked about.

7 If the wind's coming from the south, is the plan to
8 plant more trees on the north?

9 Or in your opinion are there enough trees there now?

10 MR. FELDMANN: Yeah. I -- I believe there's enough,
11 probably adequate trees there now, especially given that, you
12 know, there's not really receptors located to the north like
13 residences or that sort of thing located -- you know -- except
14 maybe more than a mile plus away.

15 So, yes. But if a guy were to, you know, have an
16 open field, you'd probably want to go in multiple directions, but
17 the north would be the -- one of the worst directions, or would
18 be the optimal place to do plantings and that sort of thing.

19 Not to say these guys won't end up doing that,
20 planting some more trees or something, but I believe there's
21 enough there.

22 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir.

23 MR. SMITH: Just a second.

24 I live out --

25 MR. FRANK: Can you state your name again, please?

1 MR. SMITH: Henry Smith, S-m-i-t-h, again.

2 I live out here, and the predominant wind is
3 northwest. I don't care what your maps say. We live this. And
4 the wind comes out of the northwest.

5 And I guarantee you this much: That odor, if there's
6 any at all, is going towards Clayton.

7 MR. FRANK: Do you have a question, Mr. Smith?

8 MR. SMITH: No, sir. I'm just saying --

9 MR. FRANK: Okay. You can -- you can testify later,
10 if you'd like to.

11 MR. SMITH: Okay.

12 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir?

13 MR. KINDHART: My question, my --

14 MR. FRANK: State your name, please.

15 MR. KINDHART: Kindhart.

16 MR. FRANK: State that again, please.

17 MR. KINDHART: Jeff Kindhart, K-i-n-d-h-a-r-t.

18 He keeps saying there's nobody north. There is a
19 house north. Mine.

20 There's two of us up there.

21 MR. FRANK: Do you have a question?

22 MR. KINDHART: That ain't a question, I guess, but
23 that's what I was -- was referring to. He keeps saying there's
24 nobody north.

25 MR. FRANK: Other questions?

1 Mr. Anderson?

2 MR. ANDERSON: Nic Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

3 Terry, I noticed that same comment about properties
4 to the north, and the wind direction, and the footage.

5 And I think if you could clarify how -- not that
6 there's no houses to the north, but a distance.

7 And I saw that mile setback and you tried to
8 associate some air percentages to that.

9 But how far north is the next house?

10 If you could help me understand so we understand what
11 kind of impact could be north and how far it is and -- I saw the
12 treeline, but some clarity on how many properties are up there or
13 how far up there are they so we can understand what impact that
14 might be.

15 MR. FELDMANN: Well, based on what I've looked at, I
16 believe that it would be over a mile to the north to a residence,
17 unless I'm missing something.

18 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.

19 MR. FRANK: Sir, in the back?

20 MR. GIEKER: Jim Gieker, G-i-e-k-e-r.

21 And my --

22 MR. FRANK: Could you speak up a little bit, please?

23 MR. GIEKER: G-i-e-k-e-r.

24 My question is for Mr. Feldmann. And it's on his
25 wind analysis where he had the percentages.

1 My understanding that was for the building, or was
2 that actually for the manure application also?

3 MR. FELDMANN: No. That was specifically for the
4 facility itself.

5 MR. GIEKER: Okay.

6 MR. FELDMANN: Where the barns are.

7 MR. GIEKER: Thank you.

8 MR. FRANK: Yes, ma'am?

9 MS. SMITH: Cindy Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

10 All I know about manure pits is they stink.

11 Now I have read there's a substance, a liquid, a
12 tablet or something that some farmers add to it to decrease the
13 odor.

14 Do you know anything about what that is?

15 MR. FELDMANN: There's a lot of products that claim,
16 are utilized, have been utilized to help with odor. Some of them
17 are snake oil.

18 I believe there are some that do work. I think
19 there's a lot more research that needs to be done in that area to
20 figure out which ones really do work consistently and, you know,
21 the reasons that they do work, but I'm not -- not sure I'm
22 familiar with the specific product that you're --

23 MS. SMITH: Well, I don't --

24 MR. FELDMANN: -- talking about.

25 MS. SMITH: -- know what the product is, but I -- I

1 don't understand how you -- how you can say that there's no odor
2 if something is going to sit there for eight months before
3 putting -- being put on a field.

4 And we live less than a mile away. We have no
5 air-conditioning. And I don't know how we're going to be able to
6 stand it.

7 DR. HOLLIS: Mrs. Smith, there will be some other
8 folks that could testify to this later, but I'll share my
9 response to what I believe you're asking, is what's available,
10 what available technologies and -- and trust me, we're -- again,
11 our phone number is going to be at the door and you will be
12 someone that is very free to contact me, contact us, and contact
13 Dr. Wilson, who is directly involved with that type of
14 responsibility.

15 There are products that -- well, let me back up
16 first.

17 The primary thing to keep in mind with this facility
18 is these are sows, and so their diet is going to be composed of
19 less nitrogen, which is going to produce less ammonia. That's
20 one thing that should be helpful in this situation.

21 The diets are also well-balanced to where the
22 nutrients in that pit are not at the level that they may have
23 been years ago when we didn't have the technology both in the
24 milling and in the management of the facility that we have today.

25 There are some tools that we can use, second point,

1 to minimize the crust that occurs on top. And so everything goes
2 into the liquid so that there's not urine or rank manure sitting
3 on the top as it comes through the slats and sits in that storage
4 tank.

5 The third part I want you to also give some credit to
6 is the fact that there is pit ventilation it's called. There are
7 fans running all the time. And so that air is being brought into
8 the facility and diluted all the time. And that not only
9 improves air quality for the facility, the workers and the staff,
10 but it also improves dilution rate of air moving out of there.

11 Now there's other people that can speak to the
12 operation better than me that live right next to it. And I'll
13 certainly yield back to them.

14 But please know that we're -- we are accessible, and
15 we manage farms very much like this one, and have had -- and I
16 asked Dr. Wilson today. Have had two calls in the last two
17 years. And in both situations immediately we would go to the
18 farm, immediately go to that individual and identify if there's
19 been an issue and what it is.

20 And in most situations he's the one calling them to
21 discuss, "We're going to be applying manure. Here's our
22 schedule. Is that okay?"

23 So that I hope gives you some comfort and it's
24 potentially not as threatening as you may be perceiving.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. SMITH: No, not really.

2 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir. In the back?

3 MR. SMITH: Well, I just --

4 Sir, just a second.

5 MR. SMITH: Oh, I'm sorry.

6 MR. FRANK: Way in the back.

7 MR. KRUTMEIER; Jamye Krutmeier, K-r-u-t-m-e-i-e-r.

8 You guys are talking about knifing that stuff in.

9 Knifing in the pastures.

10 Now are you going to knife it in a pasture over there
11 or are you going to put it in a honey wagon?

12 DR. HOLLIS: We have no plans of using a honey wagon.
13 No plans.

14 MR. KRUTMEIER: No plans. Can you give me a
15 guarantee yes or no?

16 DR. HOLLIS: I'm not going to guarantee anything
17 tonight.

18 What I'm -- I'm going to share is that when we apply
19 manure, we use the judgment of the professionals that we hire to
20 do it, some of who are here tonight, who have invested their life
21 and their reputation in doing it and they don't use that type of
22 equipment.

23 MR. KRUTMEIER: Okay.

24 MR. FRANK: Mr. Smith.

25 MR. SMITH: How are you -- you remember me.

1 MR. FRANK: Sorry.

2 MR. SMITH: I just wonder: Is there a study -- you
3 see, not everybody lives around -- we have a small acreage.
4 There's several people live around there with small acreage.

5 Now does that affect the value of the resale of it if
6 you have your operation here?

7 Has there ever been a study saying if -- if -- if I'm
8 going to sell my house is it going to go up or down because
9 you're here?

10 Has there ever been a study on the value of real
11 estate after you develop your operation?

12 Is that a fair question?

13 DR. HOLLIS: Yes, Mr. Smith, it's a fair question.
14 And there are studies, I can't quote them, there are studies that
15 are in areas where they are predominantly agricultural, which
16 Clayton and Adams County would qualify in that part of Adams
17 County, where it has even increased over time. Not because of
18 the hog farm, but just simply because of the demand for that
19 area.

20 Our goal with this location is that there's enough
21 trees between you and the farm that you're not going to be
22 looking at it. So --

23 MR. SMITH: I'll see your operation because I can see
24 that -- that house right next to where you're going to build the
25 thing.

1 I'm sorry.

2 DR. HOLLIS: I'm sorry, I'm not sure I understand
3 exactly what you're describing.

4 But again, to your original question, there are
5 studies on real estate value in agricultural areas that have
6 either not been impacted or the real estate has actually
7 continued to increase in value, irrespective of the hog
8 operation.

9 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

10 DR. HOLLIS: There may be others, again, tonight that
11 can testify better than I who know the specifics.

12 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

13 MR. FRANK: Other questions?

14 Mr. Nichols?

15 We're not keeping track, but I think this is about
16 six or seven?

17 We're not -- go ahead. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

18 MR. NICHOLS: I have a bad habit of that.

19 MR. FRANK: No. Perfectly okay. Go ahead.

20 MR. NICHOLS: I have a question for Dr. Hollis.

21 Who's going to build the buildings, the three or four
22 buildings that you're going to put up?

23 DR. HOLLIS: That -- that is a bid process to
24 professionals who do that type of work. That contractor has not
25 been selected, but trust me, it's a combination of -- of local so

1 that the -- the farm that was built in Huntsville Township in
2 Schuyler County last year would have purchased tens of thousands
3 of dollars of lumber from the closest lumberyard, which I believe
4 would have been in Clayton.

5 And so there are local contractors that will be
6 utilized. And there are crews that do this type of construction
7 that will also bid on that work. And it will be a combination of
8 both.

9 MR. NICHOLS: So mostly it will be people from
10 outside of Adams County who will build it because they are
11 trained to do that type of construction, even though you may buy
12 some products from --

13 DR. HOLLIS: I'm not --

14 MR. NICHOLS: -- Clayton or other communities?

15 DR. HOLLIS: I'm not sure I agree with that
16 statement. It will be --

17 MR. NICHOLS: That was more of a question.

18 DR. HOLLIS: It will be a process that's open to
19 those that are going to compete for it.

20 And to your labor part of it, I would expect that
21 they're going to be able to acquire labor or identify contractors
22 that are going to provide that service.

23 To the gravel, it's going to be here.

24 The concrete, it's going to be here.

25 Those are things that are -- are quite obvious that

1 are going to have to be provided just because of distance and
2 location.

3 And then to the bid -- bid process and the overall
4 project, yeah, there are folks that do these type of projects
5 that don't live in Adams County but are quite skilled at putting
6 something like that together.

7 MR. NICHOLS: My next question -- excuse me.

8 MR. FRANK: Go ahead.

9 MR. NICHOLS: Mr. Moore asked about and you responded
10 with job fairs.

11 Did you say you're going to have a job fair in
12 Clayton?

13 I'm not quite clear.

14 DR. HOLLIS: I think on my Professional Swine
15 Management slide I showed there's five people in the human
16 resources department. So they'll decide whether they want to
17 have job fairs.

18 I would highly expect that there will be one in
19 Clayton, because they're going to want to hire folks that are
20 available in that area.

21 MR. NICHOLS: Thank you.

22 MR. FRANK: Other questions?

23 Mr. Smith?

24 MR. SMITH: I would like to -- S-m-i-t-h.

25 Anyway, every house around us, the empty places and

1 next, are you going to give some funds to the Clayton Village to
2 increase their police force?

3 Because every house around us has been broken into in
4 the last two years. And there's a lot of vandalism out there.

5 So are you going to help the Village of Clayton to
6 maintain some extra police force to protect your property?

7 DR. HOLLIS: Falcon Ridge is going to pay real estate
8 taxes in your township just like everybody else. So absolutely
9 we are supportive. Absolutely, we would like to have a great
10 relationship with the county sheriff and with the local
11 authorities and with the communities.

12 So the tax base will no doubt be supportive. And the
13 local folks that -- we live there, too. The local folks that are
14 part of it, we -- we have the same concerns.

15 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir.

16 MR. DeMOSS: Sam DeMoss again. D-e-M-o-s-s.

17 I have a question for the veterinarian there.

18 Carthage had a major decline in employees when -- of
19 job openings with Methode leaving up there.

20 Right now in our area the only real people that work
21 for a living drive for a living, drive to either Mt. Sterling or
22 to Quincy.

23 Where are you going to get your employees from?

24 Are you going to bring employees in to work at your
25 confinements that don't live in our community and pay taxes in

1 our community?

2 DR. HOLLIS: We hire from all the surrounding
3 counties. We have no plans to bring in outside employees. We
4 would -- we would open up those twenty jobs to all applicants.

5 And so it is not Falcon -- in Falcon Ridge's best
6 interest to have employees -- and -- and honestly, they're going
7 to be at that farm at six o'clock in the morning. So they're not
8 going to be an hour away. They're going to live here. They're
9 going to stay there.

10 And there may be some people that stay later in the
11 afternoon and some that come earlier in the morning, but
12 essentially six o'clock in the morning until three or four
13 o'clock in the afternoon there's going to be half of that twenty
14 people there on site all the time.

15 And then there's going to be some people earlier in
16 the morning and some people later in the day.

17 But my point is they're not going to drive very far.
18 They're going to be here.

19 And in terms of the hiring, yeah, if we could
20 expedite this process we would have a job fair here tonight.
21 It's our intent to hire within the community and to work with the
22 people who live here.

23 MR. DeMOSS: But with the unemployment rate in Adams
24 County, which is 5.4, how are you going to draw anybody other
25 than high school kids to work at your facility?

1 DR. HOLLIS: I'm sorry. I don't follow you. I --

2 MR. DeMOSS: The unemployment rate is low in Adams
3 County right now. Everybody is working.

4 I mean, without paying a prevailing living wage, are
5 you going to pay a prevailing living wage to work in your
6 facility?

7 DR. HOLLIS: Yes. The people who work in our
8 facilities do earn more than a sufficient wage to raise their
9 family and -- and to grow in our communities. Yes.

10 And in terms of the twenty people that we would like
11 to work at our farm, I believe, yes, we will find those people
12 and we will retain those people.

13 MR. FRANK: Any other questions?

14 All -- one more?

15 MR. WILSON: Harold Wilson, W-i-l-s-o-n.

16 Out of the nine hundred acres you're going to put
17 this waste on, is that all his ground?

18 MR. FELDMANN: No. I think -- you know. Like I
19 said, it will probably be more like eleven hundred plus acres.

20 But when you say "his" I assume you mean Mr. McDaid,
21 and I think he probably has about eight hundred acres that would
22 be available, but there would also be several others in the area.

23 MR. WILSON: Tillable ground?

24 MR. FELDMANN: Tillable ground, yes.

25 MR. FRANK: All right. I think we've exhausted the

1 questions. Thank you very much.

2 All right. Now I'll accept written testimony.

3 If you have any written testimony that will not be
4 referred to in your oral testimony, I will accept it now and
5 enter it into the record.

6 If you have written testimony that you will be
7 referencing during your oral testimony, it can be entered into
8 the record after your oral testimony.

9 Following the written testimony phase, we will take a
10 ten minute break.

11 Is there any written testimony to be offered at this
12 time?

13 Entered into the record as Exhibit Number 4 is a
14 letter from Rick Edwards, President of the Adams County Farm
15 Bureau.

16 Entered into the record as Exhibit Number 5 is a
17 letter from the Illinois Corn Marketing Board.

18 Entered into the record as Exhibit Number 6 is a
19 Petition To Terminate Hog Confinement Being Put On Peter McDaid's
20 Property Northwest of Clayton, Illinois, and many pages of
21 signatures.

22 Any other written testimony to be offered at this
23 time?

24 All right. Let's take a ten minute break. Let's try
25 to be back here right around 8:30.

1 Thank you.

2 (A recess was taken.)

3 MR. FRANK: Please take your seats.

4 Okay. We need to get started here.

5 I have the sign-up sheets that were in the back of
6 the room listing the people who wish to provide oral testimony.

7 I will call the names of those who wish to testify.
8 When called upon, please step up to the microphone to my right,
9 state your name, and spell your name. I will then swear you in.

10 Remember, you will have three minutes to speak.

11 Are there any attorneys representing clients?

12 Seeing none, first off the list is -- can't make out
13 the first name, but I believe it's DeMoss.

14 What's your first name?

15 MR. DeMOSS: Samuel.

16 MR. FRANK: Samuel DeMoss.

17 Please state your name and spell it.

18 MR. DeMOSS: Samuel DeMoss. S-a-m-u-e-l D-e-M-o-s-s.

19 **SAMUEL DeMOSS,**

20 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testifies as follows:

21 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

22 Step up to the microphone, please.

23 MR. DeMOSS: Well, County Board members, we really
24 need you all to step up for us now. We all live out in the
25 townships, the counties and that.

1 When we was kids -- I've lived in the same little
2 town for forty-eight years. We've had hog confinements before.
3 And we've had a little bit of everything throwed at us in the
4 last few years.

5 We need the County Board to help us. There's only so
6 much us as citizens and a little town that we could actually do
7 for ourselves.

8 We have a fair amount of taxes, but we pay our taxes
9 to the county. We're all good working citizens. We need your
10 help. Every one of you need to step up and give us a hand.

11 It's not about the hog operations. We have jobs. We
12 got to drive to them. That's the way it is.

13 But when we had a hog confinement before, they lost
14 -- we lost our drinking water from a hog confinement upstream our
15 drinking water twenty-five years ago.

16 Today I can see it coming. Nobody said where this
17 waste is going to be dumped at. Where it's going to be dumped at
18 close to Clayton, within my smelling range, against my property
19 value.

20 I've worked in Quincy now -- been working for forty
21 years and two jobs. Everything I've got I worked for, paid for.

22 Right now I can't see nothing good coming out of this
23 and I just need your help. We need your help.

24 And I want to thank every one of you for letting us
25 come and speak.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

3 I see none.

4 Thank you.

5 Next up we have Gary Speck?

6 MR. SPECKHART: Speckhart.

7 Gary Speckhart, S-p-e-c-k-h-a-r-t.

8 **GARY SPECKHART,**

9 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

10 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

11 MR. SPECKHART: My name is Gary Speckhart. I live in
12 Southern Adams County, Fall Creek Township. Fifth generation to
13 live on my family farm.

14 I'm also on the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of
15 Directors. I represent the six counties in this part of the
16 state.

17 Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to comment
18 on this proposal. I'm here in support of livestock development.

19 Growth of agriculture translates into economic
20 benefits in our area.

21 A robust agriculture economy is a result of
22 investment endeavors such as this hog farm.

23 Facilities like these create jobs, both construction
24 jobs in the short term, as well as permanent long-term
25 employment.

1 Further, they increase the demand for locally grown
2 commodities, including corn and soybeans.

3 I would also like to speak out in favor of
4 responsible management of farms, whether they be livestock, row
5 crops, specialty crops or other commodities.

6 Neither I nor anyone at Farm Bureau would condone
7 irresponsible behavior, poor management, or any other activity
8 that endanger people, animals, or the environment.

9 Illinois Farm Bureau supports animal agriculture.
10 And if this -- if this facility adheres to the standards of the
11 Livestock Management Facilities Act, we are in favor of it.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

14 MR. DeMOSS: Yes. I have one. Sam DeMoss.

15 Do you have one of these facilities within a mile of
16 your home?

17 MR. SPECKHART: I do not, sir.

18 MR. DeMOSS: Thank you.

19 MR. FRANK: Other questions?

20 I see none. Thank you.

21 Next we have Jason Ippensen.

22 MR. IPPENSEN: Jason Ippensen, I-p-p-e-n-s-e-n.

23 **JASON IPPENSEN,**

24 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

25 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

1 MR. IPPENSEN: I'm a local farmer in Adams County,
2 and also co-owner of a livestock transport business located in
3 Augusta right now.

4 I've got three examples of why I think these things
5 are beneficial to the area.

6 I own the land adjacent to the sow farm in Northern
7 Adams County known as High Power Pork. We receive the manure, we
8 receive the compost. And as a young farmer it's been an extra
9 benefit to have the fertility on my farm compared to the cost of
10 commercial fertilizers. So that's helped me as a young farmer.

11 Secondly, we own recreational property next to
12 another unit in Schuyler County that has just been put up where
13 we camp, we hunt, and we fish. And as of right now we've seen
14 nothing intrusive or abusive about what's going on in Schuyler
15 County and we're within about a half mile of that unit.

16 I live about a mile and a half from the unit in
17 Northern Adams County and I really haven't had any odor at my
18 house to speak of at all.

19 So the third thing is we own -- we own a livestock
20 transport company where we haul the piglets from this unit to
21 Iowa, to Minnesota, to Illinois, to the surrounding states. That
22 has allowed me to go from zero trucks and zero employees to
23 owning several trucks, employing ten full-time employees and five
24 part-time. All local. All from around the Hancock, McDonough,
25 and Adams County area.

1 So for everybody's information, being a neighbor or
2 being involved with the barn, I see this as a positive for
3 everybody involved right now.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

6 Yes, sir.

7 MR. DeMOSS: I have one, if that's okay.

8 MR. FRANK: State your name, please.

9 MR. DeMOSS: Samuel DeMoss.

10 Where do you get you're drinking water from?

11 MR. IPPENSEN: Clayton-Camp Point Water Commission.

12 MR. DeMOSS: Thank you.

13 MR. FRANK: Other questions?

14 I see none.

15 Next we have Jayme Krutmeier?

16 State your name and spell it.

17 MR. KRUTMEIER: Jayme Krutmeier, K-r-u-t-m-e-i-e-r..

18 **JAYME KRUTMEIER,**

19 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

20 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

21 MR. KRUTMEIER: Well, it was about five weeks ago I
22 bought a house that's .62 miles from this new facility.

23 There was supposed to be another confinement that was
24 going over a half mile north of it. I didn't buy this house
25 because I didn't want to live by a hog confinement.

1 Well, guess what? I bought the house when the other
2 one got shut down. Now I got one even closer.

3 So -- and we've got over two hundred signatures on a
4 petition to stop this, or trying to stop this. Now there are all
5 coming from taxpayers in the rural community and the Village of
6 Clayton. They are the ones that's going to -- that are going to
7 take the biggest hit out of all of this.

8 That's all I got.

9 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

10 Yes, sir. Mr. White?

11 MR. WHITE: Can I ask: What hit are you talking
12 about?

13 MR. KRUTMEIER: What are you talking about?

14 MR. WHITE: You said you -- the two hundred people
15 would be the ones who take the biggest hit.

16 MR. KRUTMEIER: They're the ones that have to deal
17 with the smell. The extra travel on the roads.

18 We're the ones going to be affected by it, not the
19 other people that's putting it in. They don't live by it. They
20 don't have to deal with the smell.

21 They don't have to deal with the travel on the road.
22 They don't have to deal with the trucks in and out all night
23 long.

24 MR. WHITE: Ten or twelve cars a day?

25 MR. KRUTMEIER: Uh-huh. What about semis?

1 MR. WHITE: They're estimating ten a week.
2 Just asking.
3 MR. KRUTMEIER: Okay.
4 MR. WHITE: I mean, I -- that's the numbers I heard.
5 I'm just wondering.
6 MR. KRUTMEIER: Okay. But where my house is I can
7 see it. I mean, you can recognize --
8 MR. WHITE: Can you see your neighbor's house?
9 MR. KRUTMEIER: What's that?
10 I'm the closest one to it, besides Peter McDaid, but
11 he don't live here.
12 MR. WHITE: Well, I'm just trying to understand the
13 hit you're going to take. That's all.
14 MR. KRUTMEIER: Yes.
15 MR. WHITE: You can see it and you don't like ten
16 more cars.
17 MR. KRUTMEIER: (Nods head.)
18 MR. WHITE: Fair enough.
19 MR. FRANK: Other questions?
20 Yes, sir. Mr. Nichols.
21 MR. NICHOLS: Mr. Krutmeier, where is your house
22 located exactly? Which direction?
23 MR. KRUTMEIER: Straight west.
24 MR. NICHOLS: You're straight west?
25 MR. KRUTMEIER: The prevailing wind is out of

1 straight -- or the southeast for the most part. Southeast and
2 northwest.

3 MR. NICHOLS: Because I think Mr. Smith said earlier
4 it was from the northwest.

5 MR. KRUTMEIER: Northwest.

6 MR. NICHOLS: Thank you.

7 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir.

8 Mr. White?

9 MR. WHITE: You're prevailing wind is from the
10 southeast?

11 MR. KRUTMEIER: The southeast. For the most part.
12 And then it's from the northwest.

13 I mean, it just -- but it's like they had the graph
14 up here. Okay?

15 They have some graphs of Peoria and Springfield.
16 Isn't that right?

17 MR. WHITE: Uh-huh.

18 MR. KRUTMEIER: Okay. Now is the wind different
19 there from here?

20 You said --

21 MR. WHITE: I don't know.

22 MR. KRUTMEIER: -- the prevailing wind's out of the
23 south. The prevailing wind is not -- I've only been there five
24 weeks. I will grant you that.

25 MR. WHITE: I know just not many years back they were

1 -- had an issue with a wind farm. Typically that's because of a
2 west wind.

3 So now I'm hearing two different winds.

4 I mean, you're all neighbors. I would think you
5 would agree on where the wind comes from.

6 MR. KRUTMEIER: Uh-huh.

7 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir?

8 MR. GROTH: Doug Groth, G-r-o-t-h.

9 You just purchased your home here in the last six
10 months, but I also heard earlier that there's a lot of vandalism
11 and crime in the neighborhood.

12 Was that a concern when you bought that property?

13 MR. KRUTMEIER: Not really, because they caught them
14 kids.

15 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir.

16 Mr. DeMoss.

17 MR. DeMOSS: Did you say six weeks or six months?

18 MR. KRUTMEIER: Six weeks.

19 MR. FRANK: Anyone else?

20 I see no more questions. Thank you.

21 Next we have Eric Sterling?

22 State your name.

23 MR. STERLING: Eric Sterling, S-t-e-r-l-i-n-g.

24 **ERIC STERLING,**

25 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

1 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

2 MR. STERLING: Are you going to be timing me?

3 MR. FRANK: Yes.

4 MR. STERLING: Anything less than thirty -- anything
5 over three no allowance?

6 MR. FRANK: Don't worry about it too much.

7 Step you to the microphone, please.

8 MR. STERLING: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I
9 appreciate the opportunity to speak to you about this siting of
10 this proposed Falcon Ridge Farms Facility, which would, or could,
11 or probably will house 3,461.8 animal units. A very scientific
12 number that will negatively affect the quality of life for many
13 good citizens of Adams County, Illinois.

14 My public statement has two objects.

15 First, convince Adam County Board Members to vote no
16 on the siting of Falcon Ridge Farms, LLC. Further referred to in
17 my testimony as Falcon Ridge.

18 My second objective is to persuade Adams County Board
19 Members who have a vested interest in the livestock industry to
20 abstain from voting on the siting of Falcon Ridge.

21 So why vote no?

22 Starting with Criteria Number 6. Odor control plans
23 are not reasonable and do not incorporate the most current state
24 of such technologies. The facility is -- that is to be sited is
25 way too close to the Village of Clayton. Citizens will smell the

1 putrid odor from only 1.4 miles away. And at Central High
2 School, less than two miles away, they will smell it, too. The
3 facility is far too large to control the odor.

4 Next with Criteria Number 4. The proposed site is in
5 an extremely sensitive environmental area between three
6 watersheds and within one half mile of Missouri Creek, which
7 already has a medium priority impairment status according to the
8 IEPA. It will sit on the top edge of the Lincoln Hills karst
9 area. The location naturally drains into Siloam Spring State
10 Park, which is inside the Village of Clayton's borders and offers
11 many outdoor activities to visitors. Springs are indicators of
12 sensitive karst topography.

13 Criteria Number 7. The facility will have serious
14 negative traffic and road consequences. No question. I'll leave
15 it at that.

16 Next I'll combine Criteria Number 2 and Number 8.
17 Siting is not consistent with protecting the existing
18 environment, community, growth, tourism, or recreation. Swine
19 CAFO's use huge exhaust fans to blow particulate matter out, or
20 the pigs would quickly die from inhaling the toxins in the air.

21 The presence of Influenza A virus air samples have
22 been detected at distances up to 1.3 miles away.

23 MERSA and TB are also environmental and community
24 concerns.

25 Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus, PEDv, has killed

1 between eight to nine million piglets since 2013. The industry
2 claims this is not a public health concern, but when flies land
3 on a pile of dead baby piglets and then land on the neighbor's
4 food at a barbecue, this is an extreme cause for concern. For
5 alarm even.

6 Inept truck washing has been complicit in the spread
7 of PEDv.

8 The ECS truck wash manager's list is operated by
9 sixteen PSi LLC's, many of which were involved in a lawsuit
10 involving High Power Pork here in Adams County.

11 A little backstory. On June 13th, 2007, at a similar
12 public information meeting just like this one today, executives
13 of High Power Pork went through the same process as we are doing
14 today. They told the same story about meeting the criteria.

15 After it was built, a ruptured pipe spilled about
16 ninety thousand gallons of liquid swine waste into a nearby
17 waterway.

18 MR. FRANK: Mr. Sterling, you need to wrap it up.

19 MR. STERLING: So earlier this year High Power Pork
20 is also expanding that facility.

21 So once again, I would like to make a plea to the
22 Adams County Board Members that do vote to vote no, and those
23 that have a vested interest in livestock industry to abstain from
24 voting.

25 And one last thing. When they constructed the DMD

1 facility in 2013, they worked out a handshake deal with the
2 community. They found a compromise. And they reduced the
3 facility in half.

4 So I would ask that you work with the community of
5 Clayton and think about reducing the size of this community,
6 because it is just way too big to be that close to town.

7 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

8 Yes, sir.

9 MR. DEARWESTER: Matt Dearwester,
10 D-e-a-r-w-e-s-t-e-r.

11 I have multiple questions, if I may.

12 MR. FRANK: Okay.

13 MR. DEARWESTER: Sir, may I ask: Have you been
14 around one of these facilities that Professional Swine Management
15 has -- has managed?

16 Have you drove past one?

17 MR. STERLING: Yes.

18 MR. DEARWESTER: And you've smelled very offensive
19 odors?

20 MR. STERLING: Yes.

21 MR. DEARWESTER: You talked about the problem with
22 the traffic. What problem would there be with the traffic?

23 Ten cars, two semis a day.

24 MR. STERLING: It's actually what it's going to do to
25 the gravel roads. It's going to rut them really bad.

1 And then the people that are driving down them, when
2 they see these huge livestock trucks coming down the road
3 screaming seventy miles an hour when you have elderly people
4 driving down these roads, they --

5 MR. DEARWESTER: Sir, I --

6 MR. STERLING: You may --

7 MR. DEARWESTER: -- I asked --

8 MR. STERLING: -- find that funny, but I've heard
9 stories over and over about that.

10 MR. FRANK: We need one person talking at a time,
11 please.

12 MR. DEARWESTER: Okay. We provide feed for some of
13 these units. And we have -- my drivers have a very safe track
14 record. We've never -- we've never run over anybody. We've
15 never killed anybody.

16 Lastly, the High Power Pork, was that issue not
17 corrected?

18 MR. STERLING: Well, I wasn't able to fit that into
19 my testimony, but no. Actually, that was expunged from the
20 record and it ended up being combined into a nine complaint --
21 they -- they basically like plea bargained out in Hancock County
22 and that -- the record of that case has been expunged from the
23 IEPA's records.

24 MR. FRANK: Mr. Maiers?

25 MR. MAIERS: I'm sorry, sir. I missed --

1 MR. FRANK: Could you --

2 MR. MAIERS: M-a-i-e-r-s.

3 I'm sorry, sir. I missed it. Where are you from?

4 Where do you live?

5 MR. STERLING: I live in DeKalb, Illinois. And I'm a
6 graduate student studying anthropology.

7 MR. MAIERS: Anthropology.

8 Okay. You had some pretty strong claims there about
9 the odor and how it was going to impact.

10 So what background do you have from anthropology to
11 make those claims?

12 Or what's your expertise, I guess, to know that
13 that's what --

14 MR. STERLING: I can probably cite about a hundred
15 articles that would back that up.

16 MR. MAIERS: But your own -- you know. You have no
17 -- are you an engineer?

18 MR. STERLING: I live in DeKalb, and there's a lot of
19 hogs in DeKalb, and I smell them quite often.

20 MR. MAIERS: But you're not an engineer.

21 MR. STERLING: No, I'm not.

22 MR. MAIERS: Did you do any odor modeling to
23 determine if the odor would go two miles to the east or --

24 MR. STERLING: I don't need --

25 MR. MAIERS: -- or a mile --

1 MR. STERLING: -- modeling to --

2 MR. MAIERS: -- and a half to the --

3 MR. STERLING: -- smell --

4 MR. FRANK: We need one person talking at a time,
5 please.

6 Could you finish your question?

7 MR. MAIERS: Did you do any odor modeling to
8 determine that the smell would go two miles to the east, or a
9 mile and a half to the -- to the other direction in Clayton?

10 Did you do any odor modeling to determine that?

11 MR. STERLING: No. I used my nose and I smelled it
12 and I don't have to model it.

13 I'm not going off miles; I'm going off experience.

14 MR. FRANK: Mr. Anderson?

15 MR. ANDERSON: Nic Anderson, A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

16 You talked about karst on the edge of the Lincoln
17 Hills karst.

18 Are you geologist?

19 MR. STERLING: No, I am not.

20 MR. ANDERSON: Have you done a site investigation on
21 that site for Falcon Ridge?

22 MR. STERLING: I don't think I would be allowed on
23 the property.

24 MR. ANDERSON: So you made a determination on those
25 criteria based off of geology, personal experience?

1 MR. STERLING: I'll be entering a pamphlet here into
2 the record, but yes, it's -- it's in between three watersheds in
3 Adams County.

4 MR. ANDERSON: So that's your geological expert that
5 you determined that situation?

6 MR. STERLING: That makes it a very environmentally
7 sensitive area. Yes, it does.

8 MR. ANDERSON: You also said proximity to other
9 residences not reasonable.

10 What -- what would be a reasonable --

11 MR. STERLING: I never mentioned residences. It is
12 1.4 miles from town. They will smell it in town.

13 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. Reasonable distance from
14 residences.

15 It was too big for the town and the school.

16 What is a reasonable distance?

17 MR. STERLING: For a facility that size I would say
18 eight miles.

19 MR. ANDERSON: That's your testimony, eight miles?

20 Okay. That's all I have for now.

21 MR. FRANK: Mr. White?

22 MR. WHITE: Where were you from again?

23 MR. STERLING: DeKalb, Illinois.

24 MR. WHITE: Do you own property near the City of
25 Clayton?

1 MR. STERLING: No, I do not.

2 MR. WHITE: Do you represent an association or
3 organization?

4 MR. STERLING: No, I do not.

5 MR. WHITE: Do you care about Adams County's economy?

6 MR. STERLING: Of course I do.

7 I care about Illinois' economy.

8 I also care about the people and their livelihoods
9 and them being able to walk out on their porch and be able to
10 enjoy their households.

11 MR. WHITE: I admire your concern driving all the way
12 over from DeKalb.

13 MR. STERLING: Well, thank you, sir.

14 MR. FRANK: Other questions?

15 Yes, sir.

16 MR. BROKAW: Jonathan Brokaw, B-r-o-k-a-w.

17 Have you ever been a professional truck driver?

18 MR. STERLING: Yes, I have.

19 MR. BROKAW: What is your trucking experience?

20 MR. STERLING: Well, I haven't done it for a long
21 time, but I used to drive a straight job, they called it, and an
22 A-truck and delivered furniture.

23 MR. BROKAW: So your experience in hauling livestock,
24 or feed, or driving down gravel roads or anything of that sort is
25 not really that much experience professional-wise?

1 MR. STERLING: Not true at all. I have driven down
2 many gravel roads.

3 MR. BROKAW: But with an eighteen-wheeler.
4 So what you're saying is every driver is unsafe?

5 MR. STERLING: I'm not saying that. I'm just saying
6 it will have detrimental effects on the roads.

7 MR. FRANK: Other questions?

8 I see none. Thank you.

9 MR. STERLING: I'd also like to enter something into
10 the record.

11 MR. FRANK: Entering into the record as Exhibit
12 Number 7, Public Information Meeting Testimony from Eric
13 Sterling.

14 Next we have Matt Grimm.

15 MR. GRIMM: Matt Grimm, G-r-i-m-m.

16 MATT GRIMM,
17 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, deposes and says:

18 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

19 MR. GRIMM: Good.

20 I'm going to be reading two testimonies today.

21 *"May 11, 2015. To Whom It May Concern. My name is*
22 *Gregg Ritz. I am the President of a Marketing & Media firm, as*
23 *well as a professional hunter and host of the television show*
24 *Hunt Masters on the Outdoor Channel. As such, I am an absentee*
25 *landowner of several hundred acres of farm ground adjoining the*

1 *Lone Hollow Swine facility in Augusta, Illinois. We have been*
2 *neighbors for the past five years.*

3 *Many of you here today may have trepidations or*
4 *concerns about the risk of having such a business operate on or*
5 *near your property. However, in my professional and personal*
6 *experience, there has been nothing but advantages to this unique*
7 *opportunity.*

8 *The Facility is impeccably run. The grounds are*
9 *pristine and extremely clean.*

10 *The staff are very friendly and accommodating.*
11 *Important deliveries for my show have inadvertently gone to the*
12 *Hog Farm and they have been received -- they have always received*
13 *the packages and notified me right away.*

14 *There is very little outside activity around the Hog*
15 *Farm except for routine maintenance and deliveries.*

16 *From a communication standpoint; the management has*
17 *been very reliable.*

18 *Whenever I have needed anything, a response is always*
19 *given within 24 hours.*

20 *There is a high level of security, which gives me*
21 *peace of mind knowing that my adjoining property is receiving*
22 *some of that benefit.*

23 *When the facility was putting in a waterline, they*
24 *asked me if I wanted to extend it out to my property and they*
25 *handled all the permits and easements.*

1 *The economic boost & benefit would be a major plus to*
2 *the community; everything from job creation to agriculture gains.*

3 *From a health perspective, the facility is highly*
4 *regulated and causes no concerns. The odor is on the same level*
5 *of any farming practice whether it be cattle or chickens. I*
6 *personally am not affected by it.*

7 *In closing, I highly recommend and encourage if given*
8 *the opportunity to include a Hog Farm as part of an economic*
9 *community business initiative.*

10 *Sincerely, Gregg Ritz. President, WilComm & Host,*
11 *Hunt Masters."*

12 *Okay. So I have a second testimony.*

13 *"On May 11 of 2015. Dear Mr. Wilson: Regarding your*
14 *public hearing of a new pork complex near Clayton, Illinois, we*
15 *own a farm adjacent to the High Power Pork complex south of*
16 *Agusta, Illinois, and have worked with the professionals of*
17 *Carthage Veterinarian Services since 2010 by applying manure to*
18 *our 400 acres each year prior to corn. The liquid manure is*
19 *pumped to our fields either spring or fall and injected into the*
20 *soil with an applicator. Our fields are soil tested every*
21 *several years on 2.5 acre grids and we have seen a steady*
22 *increase in soil fertility along with a dramatic crop yield*
23 *increase.*

24 *The manure not only provides the basic nutrients that*
25 *a crop needs but also provides micro nutrients and beneficial*

1 *microorganisms needed to grow a great crop. We purchase these*
2 *nutrients from High Power Pork at a reduced cost which is very*
3 *important to us and our neighbors with today's low corn prices.*
4 *The smell after application is usually gone after the next rain*
5 *or once the fields dry, usually in a few days. Deer hunting is*
6 *not affected on our property since the manure is usually applied*
7 *within a 3 day period and is no more disruptive than normal field*
8 *operations. We inject the manure directly into the corn stalks*
9 *which allows us to skip a fall tillage pass and we normally do*
10 *just one tillage pass prior to planting in the spring, thereby*
11 *minimizing soil disturbance or erosion.*

12 *We have been very pleased to work with the*
13 *professionals from High Power Pork and the opportunity it has*
14 *provided our farming enterprise.*

15 *Thanks, Doug Deininger."*

16 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

17 I see none.

18 MR. GRIMM: May I submit these?

19 MR. FRANK: Entered into the record is Exhibit Number
20 8, a letter from Doug Deininger.

21 Entered the record as Exhibit Number 9 is a letter
22 from Greg Ritz.

23 Next up we have Henry Wilson.

24 State your name and spell it, please.

25 MR. WILSON: Henry Wilson, W-i-l-s-o-n.

1 **HENRY WILSON,**
2 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

3 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

4 Step up to the microphone, please.

5 MR. WILSON: I would like to thank the County Board
6 for coming out tonight and --

7 MR. FRANK: Step up a little closer.

8 MR. WILSON: Sorry.

9 I would like to thank the County Board for coming out
10 tonight to hear what it is we're wanting to do.

11 I work for Professional Swine Management. I have
12 worked for them for probably about the last four and a half
13 years.

14 My role at Professional Swine Management is soil and
15 water conservation manager.

16 Within that role I do a lot of different things, but
17 a big part of that is manure management. Part of manure
18 management is dealing with the local farmers who we pump -- who
19 we apply the manure onto, to make sure we're getting it into
20 their fields at the right times so we don't make messes, and that
21 everything is going the way they would like to see it go.

22 We've heard from two guys that -- or one guy that
23 gets manure. There would be several others that are pretty happy
24 with the way we do business.

25 Another part of my job is dealing with the EPA or the

1 DNR, depending on what state we're in. If the Environmental
2 Protection Agency wants to come on the farm, I'm the person that
3 takes them onto the farm, gives them a tour of the farm, provides
4 them with records and all the necessary things that they need to
5 do to do their job.

6 Then as far as manure management goes, there's a
7 third component to it, and that is answering citizen complaints.
8 I've been doing this for four and a half years. I haven't had
9 very many.

10 Whenever somebody does call the main office the call
11 comes to my office. I go out to their house, meet with them, see
12 what their concern is and see if there's anything that I can do
13 to help alleviate or fix their problem.

14 So that's kind of manure management in a -- I guess
15 in a very short form.

16 I think my qualifications makes this job pretty neat
17 for me. As Dr. Hollis said, my PhD is more in the environmental
18 area, like in environmental sciences. I have degrees in agronomy
19 and soil sciences. So has me be in a position where I can kind
20 of look after the environment, but also give the hands -- very,
21 very hands on in row crop production. Something I really enjoy.

22 I grew up on a family farm. My brother and I farm my
23 family's land. And we also grew up about three hundred feet from
24 a pig farm. So when a citizen complains about pig smell with no
25 air-conditioning, I know what they're talking about.

1 One of the most risky parts of this business is
2 getting the manure from the pit to the field. And that's done by
3 some of the best guys in the business that we have. Scott
4 Harrison, Bradshaw Custom Pumping, among others.

5 This spring we pumped tens upon tens of millions of
6 gallons of manure. We didn't have a gallon of manure leave the
7 field. And that's the rule, not the exception.

8 If it does, if we -- if we do have a release it's
9 reported to EPA like it should be.

10 And Terry mentioned there's going to be a nutrient
11 management plan. That process is all laid out in the nutrient
12 management plan.

13 So in conclusion, Bill referenced me a few times, and
14 I just wanted to let you know there's somebody out at
15 Professional Swine Management in my position to look after the
16 things that Terry and Bill talked about.

17 Thanks.

18 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

19 Yes, sir. Mr. Nichols.

20 MR. NICHOLS: Mr. Wilson, what's the hardest part of
21 your job?

22 MR. WILSON: I would say people.

23 No. That's not -- I'm not saying that in a bad way.
24 I mean -- or any -- or any different. I mean, that's the most
25 difficult part is dealing with people. There's always -- and I'm

1 not saying, you know, people that are complaining.

2 It's just I deal with -- I deal with so many
3 different people. With the farmers that we deal with. With the
4 manure pumpers and everybody.

5 Just making sure that everybody is on track doing
6 what it is they're supposed to be doing to get the job done in a
7 timely manner I would say is the -- is probably the most
8 difficult part.

9 But it's also the most rewarding part because you get
10 to make a lot of long-lasting friendships, I think.

11 MR. NICHOLS: And what I hear you saying is that
12 these people who are concerned about the manure and the odor
13 don't have much to worry about because you're on the job?

14 Is that a fair assessment?

15 MR. WILSON: I would -- I mean, I've worked here for
16 four and a half years. It's my job to take complaints and it's
17 my job to make sure all the manure has -- has a home, as I put
18 it. That's what I do.

19 Like Bill said, our number's on the -- our number's
20 on the gate. If you are having an issue, call the number. It
21 goes straight to me. I'll come out to your house and meet you
22 and take up whatever issue you might have and come to a solution.

23 MR. NICHOLS: Thank you.

24 MR. DeMOSS: I have a question.

25 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir. Mr. DeMoss.

1 MR. DeMOSS: Could you tell me -- well, what do you
2 tell people when they -- when you have sprayed on a field when
3 they call and complain to you?

4 What do you tell them; that, you know, it's a two or
5 three day window you're going not be able to sit outside because
6 the manure is here?

7 What do you tell them?

8 MR. WILSON: Well, I mean, it's all -- it's all
9 different.

10 I've got one particular neighbor -- I mean, just
11 nobody's -- probably you're not going to believe me, but to be
12 honest, we don't have problems. We don't have -- very, very few
13 problems with neighbors.

14 I have one neighbor in particular that's a little bit
15 sensitive. When I know we're going to apply manure from that
16 farm anywhere, even if it's not by her house, it might be on the
17 other side of the section, I always call her up. I tell her what
18 -- I tell her what I would like to do as far as planning, as far
19 as what we're going to go in and apply manure. I say, "Is that
20 okay? Would you like us to do it next week? Do you have
21 something going on?"

22 And we schedule it. And I think that communication
23 with the neighbors makes everything go a lot smoother.

24 MR. DeMOSS: I have one more question.

25 MR. WILSON: Sure.

1 MR. DeMOSS: How are going to answer eight hundred
2 people's questions, the people that live in Clayton; one at a
3 time or on a news response saying, "We'll take care of it"?

4 MR. WILSON: Like Dr. Hollis said, our number's going
5 to be right on the -- our number's going to be on the --

6 MR. DeMOSS: That's not answering my question.

7 I said how are you going to answer with eight hundred
8 people calling you --

9 MR. WILSON: What's your question?

10 MR. DeMOSS: My question is how are you going to
11 answer to the people when you got eight hundred people calling
12 you about a complaint?

13 MR. WILSON: I suppose would be first come first
14 serve.

15 MR. DeMOSS: Now is that very professional?

16 I mean, do you do something; not spray for eight
17 hundred citizens within a mile?

18 MR. WILSON: Well, you're asking me how I'm going to
19 take care of eight hundred complaints at one time.

20 MR. DeMOSS: No. But I'm saying within -- eight
21 hundred people lives in a mile and a quarter from this thing.
22 Are we all supposed to set our plans aside so you can do your
23 plans?

24 MR. WILSON: No, that's not what I said at all.

25 MR. DeMOSS: No, but that's what I'm -- you're

1 saying. That you're going to answer one person when there's
2 eight hundred people. How are you going to deal with it?

3 MR. WILSON: That's a good question.

4 MR. DeMOSS: Thank you.

5 MR. WILSON: I suppose -- I suppose what I would do
6 with that is I'd probably talk to the -- talk to the mayor or the
7 city officials to see, you know, when they're -- when there are
8 special events or things like that, or special areas that we need
9 to avoid or special times of the year.

10 That's where I would start; with your elected
11 officials.

12 MR. DeMOSS: Thank you.

13 MR. FRANK: Mr. Maiers?

14 MR. MAIERS: Tim Maiers.

15 I am curious. I mean, have you -- are you applying
16 manure on -- around other communities, and have you had issues
17 from other -- other towns that you've applied manure around?

18 MR. WILSON: No.

19 MR. MAIERS: Have you had complaints from other towns
20 that --

21 MR. WILSON: No. I've not never had a complaint from
22 a town.

23 Or a school.

24 MR. MAIERS: And you have applied manure next to
25 schools in other towns?

1 MR. WILSON: Yes, sir.

2 MR. FRANK: Yes, sir.

3 MR. BRADY: John Brady, B-r-a-d-y. I live southwest
4 of Clayton. I'm a farmer.

5 Dr. Hollis talked about when they knife in the manure
6 you can smell it, you know, that day.

7 And the same way with anhydrous ammonia, liquid
8 nitrogen, you can a lot of times smell it the same day, too, but
9 second day you don't notice it.

10 MR. FRANK: Are there other questions?

11 I see none. Thank you.

12 Next up we have Gary Donley.

13 MR. DONLEY: Gary Donley, D-o-n-l-e-y.

14 **GARY DONLEY,**
15 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

16 MR. DONLEY: I would like to add a little of the
17 economic impact that has been briefly discussed here various
18 times this evening.

19 A couple of those that come to mind, there was a
20 slide earlier about the real estate taxes and what the impact is.
21 I don't know if anybody caught the real impact of that, but the
22 \$70,000 is just a little bit over the -- the calculation comes up
23 to that would be the anticipated tax level for Falcon Ridge
24 Farms.

25 Almost sixty percent of that goes to the local school

1 district. So Camp Point Unit Number 3 would collect I've
2 calculated just a little over \$41,000 of real estate taxes from
3 Falcon Ridge.

4 And while that may not be enough to solve all of the
5 state budget crisis that your local district would have or
6 others, it would certainly go a long ways to help support the
7 payroll for another kindergarten teacher. It helps with another
8 school aide. There would be a lot of places that \$41,000 on an
9 annual basis would come into play and be helpful.

10 The next almost \$10,000 comes to the county level.

11 And then the other remaining parts are spread across
12 the township; fire districts and so on.

13 So there is a real economic impact that's calculable
14 from a tax basis standpoint.

15 In addition to that, there have been some references
16 to construction and the cost of the fourteen and a half million
17 dollar investment, but on an ongoing basis the annual expenses of
18 the farm would be in excess of five million dollars of operating
19 expenses that would take place. And that's paying the electric
20 bill, and it's paying the real estate taxes, it's paying the feed
21 bill to Matt and his company, which pays for his drivers that it
22 employs people like Jason to deliver pigs.

23 There's all sorts of supplies that are bought
24 locally. And so a lot of that five million dollars year in and
25 year out stays within the Western Illinois area.

1 And when you start to multiply that effect by the
2 economic reality of how that five million dollars gets spent, you
3 start to really snowball the impact that Falcon Ridge would have,
4 the positive impact that Falcon Ridge would have in Western
5 Illinois.

6 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

7 MR. DeMOSS: I have one.

8 MR. FRANK: Mr. DeMoss?

9 MR. DeMOSS: Sir, let's say you -- you brought up the
10 financial benefits for this.

11 Let's say that you do have some kind of -- they have
12 some kind of pigs disease comes through, wipes them out.

13 Are you going to receive federal or state aid from
14 the taxpayers to help you retrieve your money?

15 MR. DONLEY: To my knowledge, there has not been a
16 program like that that's been offered at all.

17 MR. DeMOSS: Well, they have for chickens.

18 MR. DONLEY: Good point. And just a bit over a year
19 ago the swine industry went through, and it's been mentioned
20 earlier, the PEDv issue that was going to spread from a fly to a
21 barbecue, which was very much of an impact, a devastating impact
22 in the pig industry within the last twelve months.

23 There was never a hint of mention of a government
24 subsidiary or bailout for the pork producers at that point in
25 time.

1 If we went through that, and there's been no offer of
2 economic subsidy, I think there's a small likelihood that there
3 would be going forward.

4 MR. DeMOSS: But when that did happen, it did happen,
5 you did admit that, we paid more in pork prices.

6 So we did reimburse you, did we or not?

7 Yes.

8 MR. DONLEY: We hope you still have bacon and sausage
9 every morning for breakfast and continue to do so.

10 The market forces that were impacted, of demand and
11 supply, they work every day as well. So you're paying less today
12 than you did a year ago.

13 MR. DeMOSS: Not in my billfold.

14 MR. FRANK: Are there other questions for this
15 witness?

16 Thank you.

17 Next up we have Ted Ufkes.

18 MR. UFKES: Ted Ufkes.

19 **TED UFKES,**
20 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

21 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

22 MR. UFKES: Good evening. I want to take the
23 opportunity to first introduce myself. I know I have spoken to
24 several of you over the course of the past few months.

25 My name is Ted Ufkes. And I did want to deliver two

1 items. And one is transparency and talk to you about how our
2 company believes in transparency.

3 The second piece is opportunity.

4 And I want to mirror what Gary mentioned. He talked
5 a lot about the economic benefits of this farm. I would like to
6 go a level deeper and talk to you about how it impacts not only
7 my company, but other companies that are surrounding Western
8 Illinois.

9 You think about when one of these units is built it
10 not only impacts the eighteen to twenty jobs that we've talked
11 about, we've talked about the City of Clayton, how a lot of
12 people are driving to and from, but what we haven't talked a lot
13 about tonight is all the other outside contractors that it helps
14 and the jobs that that provides. What I like to call the
15 ancillary benefits.

16 That impacts my company. Today we employ roughly
17 forty people. All head of household employees.

18 I myself live in Adams County. And about fifteen
19 percent of our employees live in Adams County.

20 Adding more farms and continuing the growth in West
21 Central, Illinois continues that progression.

22 But we're just one small piece of it. What we're
23 leaving out is all of the feed companies, the semi drivers, the
24 gas station attendants, the people working at the grocery stores.
25 All those additional benefits that eighteen to twenty jobs will

1 provide long term.

2 What I haven't mentioned is the construction
3 progress. So for a ten to fifteen million dollar project it's
4 going to need the influx obviously short term. Those employees
5 are going to utilize the resources we have in Adams County.

6 So for those reasons I strongly urge you as the Adams
7 County Board to vote in favor of this project.

8 The second piece I want to talk to you about is
9 transparency. I have worked up front very early on in this
10 project. I've identified this as a very good site and have
11 worked closely with a number of people that have spoken tonight.

12 It's never fun to sit up in these types of meetings,
13 right? And I can understand the trepidations and concerns. And
14 I think you've heard some good testimony tonight and hopefully
15 those concerns will be eased.

16 But what we would try to do is be as transparent as
17 possible. When we found out the notice of intent has been
18 completed I made a number of phone calls, but we're never
19 perfect, right? We never overcommunicate.

20 But my first call was to Les Post and let him know
21 that the notice of the intent had been submitted to the county
22 board and urged him to communicate any questions or concerns he
23 or the board would have.

24 My second call was to Marty Cook, who's the
25 superintendent at the Camp Point Central School District. We

1 knew that there's some concerns with the prior project that was
2 being worked on and wanted to be upfront and transparent with him
3 early on in the project alleviating any concerns.

4 As many of you know that live close to the unit,
5 notices were sent to neighbors within the setback period, and the
6 next thing was to try to call some of the residents that were
7 outside of that setback area, but we knew might have some
8 concerns with it. Which I did that and talked to several
9 different families.

10 There was one question earlier, I think from Mr.
11 DeMoss, about the mayor of Clayton. That attempt was made very
12 early on. Unfortunately the Clayton website is inaccurate of who
13 the mayor is. It was Jerry Newbrough who it says.

14 As soon as I did find out who the mayor was, was Sam
15 Miller, he and I did have a very good conversation.
16 Unfortunately, I don't know the date of when that was. I can't
17 tell you if that was before or after the city council meeting. I
18 know he appreciated the call. We had a good conversation.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

21 Thank you very much.

22 Next we have Adam Annegers.

23 MR. ANNEGERS: Adam Annegers, A-n-e-g-e-r-s.

24 **ADAM ANNEGERS,**

25 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

1 MR. FRANK: Step up to the microphone.

2 MR. ANNEGERS: My name is Adam Annegers. I have
3 worked for buildings very similar to the one that Falcon Ridge is
4 going to be constructing for the last thirteen and a half years
5 with Professional Swine Management.

6 I live in Carthage, Illinois. I'm a member of the
7 volunteer fire department. I help coach high school football
8 teams, junior high football teams, my children's baseball,
9 basketball teams. Very active in the community.

10 Falcon Ridge Farms will offer a great opportunity for
11 eighteen to twenty jobs in the county. The same opportunities
12 that I've had working for this company.

13 I have managed several different buildings, different
14 size buildings. Buildings the same size and some buildings
15 larger than Falcon Ridge.

16 With the economic boost Falcon Ridge will bring to
17 the community and to Adams County, I strongly urge the county
18 board to vote in favor for this project.

19 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

20 Yes, sir.

21 MR. IPPENSEN: Do you really --

22 MR. FRANK: State -- state your name.

23 MR. ANNEGERS: Jason Ippensen.

24 Do you really like your job?

25 MR. ANNEGERS: I would not -- I would not do anything

1 else. I love my job.

2 MR. FRANK: Any others questions?

3 Thank you.

4 Next we have Matt Dearwester?

5 MR. DEARWESTER: May I defer?

6 MR. FRANK: Yes.

7 Next we have Jeff White?

8 MR. WHITE: Jeff White.

9 You need the name again?

10 MR. FRANK: Yes.

11 MR. WHITE: Jeff White, W-h-i-t-e.

12 **JEFF WHITE,**

13 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

14 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

15 MR. WHITE: My name is Jeff White. I work for a
16 company called Dearwester Grain Services.

17 Approximately two and a half years ago we bought a
18 grain facility in Clayton, Illinois.

19 I encourage the Adams County Board to approve the
20 Falcon Ridge proposal and all the economic benefits that come not
21 only to the City of Clayton, but the entire county.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

24 MR. DeMOSS: I have one.

25 MR. FRANK: Mr. DeMoss.

1 MR. DeMOSS: Are employed by Mr. Dearwester?

2 MR. WHITE: Yes, sir.

3 MR. DeMOSS: Mr. Dearwester, are -- are you aware
4 that he's going to gain major profit off of selling grain to
5 these places?

6 MR. WHITE: I don't know if you're familiar with the
7 nature of the grain business. I would not define it as major
8 profit.

9 MR. DeMOSS: That's a pretty good one.

10 Are you aware of what your grain operation does in
11 Clayton?

12 MR. WHITE: I believe we employ seven people, yes.

13 MR. DeMOSS: Are you aware of the hazards and the
14 waste that you present to the citizens of Clayton?

15 MR. WHITE: If we are doing that, it is not by
16 intention, and we try to follow the laws of the State of
17 Illinois.

18 MR. DeMOSS: Has the EPA connected -- contacted
19 Dearwester Elevator in the City of Clayton in the last three
20 months?

21 MR. WHITE: Not to my knowledge.

22 MR. DeMOSS: Thank you.

23 MR. FRANK: Other questions?

24 Thank you.

25 Next we have Doug Groth.

1 MR. GROTH: Pass.

2 MR. FRANK: Dr. Groth passes.

3 Next up is David Dedert.

4 MR. DEDERT: David Dedert, D-e-d-e-r-t.

5 DAVID DEDERT,
6 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

7 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

8 MR. DEDERT: My name is David Dedert. I am a
9 producer here from Adams County. I farm here north of Quincy. I
10 am the District 6 Director on the Illinois Pork Producers
11 Association Board and I am also President of the Western Illinois
12 Pork Producers.

13 I have a grain and livestock farm here north of
14 Quincy. I raise hogs, beef cattle, and sheep. The hogs is what
15 I call farrow to finish. From breeding clear through market size
16 hogs.

17 I -- everything stays what I call quote in
18 confinement. I have no trouble with odors, you know, maybe other
19 than maybe just when I am spreading the liquid, you know, at that
20 time. I work everything in like it needs to be.

21 Other than that, I don't have -- have any complaints
22 from any of the neighbors, and the neighbors are basically
23 directly across the street.

24 The pork industry has undergone an enormous amount of
25 change over the last several years. And we as consumers have

1 demanded a consistent high quality and safe, inexpensive food
2 supply. The combined with -- this combined with consolidation of
3 retail outlets and processors have forced farmers to change the
4 way they do business to feed a growing population and to continue
5 to make a living.

6 This proposed farm is an example of one of the ways
7 farmers can adapt to survive. Although all hog farms have gotten
8 larger and more specialized, the overwhelming majority of hogs in
9 Adams County and throughout Illinois are good stewards of the
10 land and good neighbors.

11 As pork producers we take our jobs very seriously and
12 we view this issue as one that should be considered based on
13 facts and not emotions.

14 Our local economies are directly connected to the
15 future success of agriculture in this area for our communities to
16 grow and to prosper. Agriculture must have the ability to change
17 and compete to survive.

18 Adams County has a long tradition of pork production.
19 Pork production is an important part of Adams County. And the
20 economic impact of the Illinois Livestock Industry conducted by
21 researchers of U of I have showed that in Adams County pork
22 production contributes about 29.8 million dollars to the county's
23 economy and 2.2 million dollars in taxes.

24 Pork producers are also one of the largest consumers
25 of corn and soybeans. Feed consumed by these pigs creates demand

1 and supports the price -- prices of grain farmers throughout the
2 area.

3 This proposed farm will consume approximately 180
4 thousand bushels of corn on a yearly basis. The feed will be
5 sourced locally, thus creating demands for corn and soybeans.

6 I believe this proposed farm is consistent with the
7 surrounding area and will provide economic growth for the local
8 economy.

9 I urge the Adams County Board and the Department of
10 Agriculture to approve the siting of this farm.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

13 MR. DeMOSS: I have one.

14 MR. FRANK: Mr. DeMoss.

15 MR. DeMOSS: How far north are you from Quincy?

16 MR. DEDERT: About five miles.

17 MR. DeMOSS: How many acres do you farm?

18 MR. DEDERT: A little under a thousand.

19 MR. DeMOSS: Do you farm your neighbor's ground?

20 MR. DEDERT: Yes.

21 MR. DeMOSS: Thank you.

22 MR. FRANK: Mr. Nichols?

23 MR. NICHOLS: Mr. Dedert, how do you apply the manure
24 from your hogs?

25 MR. DEDERT: Currently I am spreading it on top and

1 working it in shortly after I spread it.

2 MR. NICHOLS: And you have no complaints from
3 neighbors saying --

4 MR. DEDERT: No.

5 MR. NICHOLS: -- "I can smell an odor"?

6 MR. DEDERT: No.

7 MR. FRANK: Anyone else?

8 Yes, sir.

9 MR. STERLING: Eric Sterling.

10 So you're not injecting the manure into the soil?
11 You're surface applying it?

12 MR. DEDERT: Right. Correct. Currently I am surface
13 applying and then working it in right after I apply it.

14 MR. STERLING: But you do surface apply it.

15 MR. DEDERT: Yes.

16 MR. FRANK: Any other questions.

17 Thank you very much.

18 Next we have Curtis Moore.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He left.

20 MR. FRANK: He left?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

22 MR. FRANK: Mr. Moore left.

23 Tim Maiers?

24 State your name.

25 MR. MAIERS: Tim Maiers, M-a-i-e-r-s.

1 **TIM MAIERS,**
2 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

3 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

4 MR. DEDERT: Hello. My name is Tim Maiers. I live
5 near Payson in Adams County. I do work for the Illinois Pork
6 Producers Association and also have a 280 acre farm that's been
7 in my family for three generations.

8 I would like to offer these comments in support of
9 the proposed farm and on behalf of the pork industry and the many
10 families who proudly raise pork.

11 While the size of farms has grown, that doesn't mean
12 we've lost sight of the values that have always guided Illinois
13 farmers; safe food, quality animal care, and protection of our
14 land, air and water.

15 Although hogs farms have gotten larger and more
16 specialized, the overwhelming majority of hog farms in Adams
17 County and throughout Illinois are good stewards of the land.

18 According to the 2011 Illinois EPA Livestock Facility
19 Investigation Annual Report, this is a report that Illinois EPA
20 does each year, 2011 is the most current and available of any
21 inspections that they do of farms in the state, less than one
22 percent of all Illinois hog farms had any odor complaints or
23 water pollution violations. I think that sometimes we overlook
24 -- PSM has talked about their transparency and ability to call if
25 there's any problems. Illinois EPA is also there if there are

1 problems that folks can call to get corrected and whether that be
2 odor or water quality.

3 So there is another system just beyond just the
4 Livestock Management Facilities Act to protect citizens if
5 problems arise. And like I said, less than one percent of all
6 Illinois hog farms had received any complaints in 2011.

7 Related to the environment, today's farms do employ
8 modern technology and innovations that allow us to better capture
9 and recycle those valuable nutrients that are in the manure as
10 crop fertilizers.

11 Hog farmers have made significant improvements over
12 the years to safeguard natural resources. Data from a fifty year
13 study from 1959 to 2009 reveal that productivity gains in pork
14 production went hand-in-hand with decreases in environmental
15 impacts.

16 Factors affecting pork's footprint at the farm level
17 were included in the research model, including feed, water,
18 energy, land and crop nutrients. And the results show that water
19 use was reduced 41 percent, land use was reduced 78 percent, and
20 the carbon footprint was reduced 35 percent.

21 The farm's located in a rural part of the county and
22 will add economic activity to the county and add to the local tax
23 base.

24 Jobs will be supported from the construction and
25 operation of the farm. And it will support local businesses,

1 such as Dearwester Grain, and increase demand for local corn,
2 soybeans and support prices for grain farmers throughout the
3 county.

4 I believe that animal agriculture must be allowed to
5 continue to grow and thrive within Adams County.

6 In conclusion, this farm can be built and operated to
7 be in harmony with the environment, to be a good neighbor, while
8 adding economic activity to our county.

9 I would urge the County Board and the Department of
10 Ag to approve the siting of this farm.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

13 MR. DeMOSS: I have one for you.

14 MR. FRANK: Mr. DeMoss.

15 MR. DeMOSS: You have how many acres?

16 MR. MAIERS: Two hundred and eighty.

17 MR. DeMOSS: Do you have a thirty-five hundred hog
18 confinement on your farm?

19 MR. MAIERS: No, I do not.

20 MR. DeMOSS: How far are you from Payson?

21 MR. MAIERS: How far am I from Payson?

22 About three miles.

23 MR. DeMOSS: So you can sit there and you can stand
24 and give me judgment for me not wanting one because you don't
25 have one.

1 MR. MAIERS: I wouldn't say I wouldn't have one,
2 though, either. I do have --

3 MR. DeMOSS: Well, they're open to it.

4 MR. MAIERS: I -- I do have hogs a mile from my farm.

5 MR. DeMOSS: They're open to it.

6 MR. MAIERS: I would not be -- I would -- I would
7 have questions if a farm was proposed. I would not -- I would
8 not tell you I wouldn't.

9 I would want to know if the people had experience in
10 what they were doing. I would want to be sure that they knew
11 what they were doing. And I think in this case this group has
12 shown that they've got the experience to operate it properly.

13 MR. DeMOSS: Sir, are -- another question. Are you
14 aware of the aquifer spring under Payson?

15 If they had a major leak in Payson they would damage
16 the water system for all of Adams County. Because we get our
17 water, Clayton, Camp Point, we buy a majority of our water from
18 Payson. If there's a major leak there, a water contamination,
19 we're not having anymore water, and neither are you.

20 MR. MAIERS: Unfortunately I'm not on rural water, so
21 -- I have well water. I would love to have rural water, but I
22 can't get it.

23 MR. DeMOSS: It might not be no good.

24 MR. MAIERS: Well, I would love to have it.

25 MR. FRANK: Other questions?

1 I see none. Thank you..

2 Next we have Nic Anderson.

3 MR. ANDERSON: Nic Anderson. N-i-c A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

4 **NIC ANDERSON,**

5 having been sworn by the Hearing Officer, testified:

6 MR. FRANK: You may proceed.

7 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, County Board. I know
8 there's some new faces on the Board and a learning experience for
9 all of us.

10 And I know, Les, this is a little closer to home than
11 some have been in the past and a little more sensitive.

12 And I think there's some emotion out there. And my
13 hope is that all of us here tonight -- and also thank you, the
14 supporters and people that support agriculture. We live in
15 agricultural communities. And we need to learn how to get along
16 better and understand things better.

17 And through what I do with the Illinois Livestock
18 Development Group, working with livestock farms around the state
19 and trying to develop rural communities so they're a viable part
20 in the future.

21 And we go through ups and tides in rural America.
22 And it's a challenge. And how do we bring people back and still
23 make a living, and still live in a world that's computerized, and
24 on a pretty fast pace, and we all want a new car?

25 So there's a lot of challenges out there in

1 agriculture and rural communities.

2 And when I go up and down the state, 99.9 percent of
3 those farms out there are interested in doing the right thing.

4 Occasionally mother nature can affect us. We try to
5 make plans for that. Occasionally accidents can happen, whether
6 it's worker error or not. We try to make plans for that.

7 So our goal in the livestock industry is try to do
8 the best we can and communicate to you and your communities. In
9 not only what we do and how we do things and how we feed the
10 world, but also do it in a manner that we can protect those
11 environments that we're going to have to pass on to generations.
12 Much like my grandfather did, my father did, and hopefully the
13 generations ahead of me are going to get that package. We are
14 all interest in that, and it does us no good to destroy, or
15 demean, or spend a lot of money somewhere where we're not going
16 to be welcomed in the community.

17 So thanks to the Board for having this for an
18 educational process.

19 And even though there are some community concerns out
20 there, I think we can address them and we can live together to do
21 that, but it's going to take communication; not only with
22 yourself, and your neighbors, and your other neighbors, and PSM,
23 and Falcon Ridge.

24 And if there are challenges, we can't just complain
25 about them. We have to figure out how to address them. And if

1 they're not going to address them to your satisfaction or some
2 reasonable fashion, myself, or the pork industry, the livestock
3 industry, and agriculture needs to help get those addressed in a
4 reasonable manner. Because it affects all of us all the way from
5 growing corn and soybeans to the product that goes to the
6 consumer case.

7 So my goal is that we can all meet those challenges
8 and needs and do that in the future and supply a safe food
9 product not only for us and our families, but our community, our
10 state, and the world really that depends on us for food systems.

11 So that's my up on the preacher blocks.

12 If anybody has any questions or concerns that I can
13 help with, please contact us through the livestock group or pork
14 producers. We would be happy to answer any questions.

15 MR. FRANK: Are there questions for this witness?

16 Yes, sir. Mr. Sterling?

17 MR. STERLING: How many of these meetings have you
18 been to, Mr. Anderson?

19 MR. ANDERSON: I think in the last ten years --
20 there's an average of about four, sometimes five a year, and I
21 have been to all but one that I think in Southern Illinois I
22 couldn't make it to.

23 MR. STERLING: Are you being paid to be here?

24 MR. ANDERSON: Yes. I -- actually, I -- I'm a
25 consultant for the livestock industry. I'm not getting paid here

1 tonight, but I get paid by the industry to talk about issues and
2 help people understand those issues.

3 And coincidentally, out of those ten -- ten years
4 I've been here, and we did five a year, that's fifty hearings.
5 And I think this board experienced that, the Rich Gassler
6 meeting. Not a lot of controversy. Operations can go up.

7 But in those ten years that I have been here, and
8 really of the Act, we've sited over twelve hundred and fifty
9 livestock farms through the LMFA. There's been seventeen hundred
10 or so permitted and some didn't go through.

11 But so there's some economic activity over
12 eighteen -- almost an eighteen year period here. So we can
13 operate. And once buildings are up and going, very rarely do we
14 have a lot of issues surrounding them, whatever it might be.

15 MR. FRANK: Mr. Sterling?

16 MR. STERLING: I find it interesting that you guys
17 just keep talking about the economic benefits, but don't talk
18 about any of the criteria of this specific facility.

19 Now obviously you guys are in favor of the economic
20 benefits. You pretty much have the deck stacked here with the
21 industry representatives.

22 What about the people of Clayton that are going to be
23 smelling this thing?

24 What are you going to do for them people?

25 What about the biofilters? Why aren't there

1 biofilters on this?

2 MR. ANDERSON: Well, you've kind of staged that
3 question that they are going to being affected by smell. We
4 don't believe that's going to happen.

5 And I think the technology, and the practices, and
6 the best management and good communication can stop that from
7 happening.

8 Now if you want to make that assumption, you can do
9 that all day, but what we see and what we experience and what
10 we've provided with the technology that's in place, that those
11 issues can be addressed and managed; and if they can't be to that
12 satisfaction, we need to talk in the community basis and talk to
13 our neighbors and understand how can we address that.

14 Do we need to do some other things?

15 Do we need to implement other technologies?

16 That's the whole process that we're going through.
17 Because we live in those communities and have raised livestock
18 for years. It just might not be the way some people that don't
19 raise livestock think it should be.

20 But I think we will decipher through that in these
21 rural communities that are -- we have to depend on for
22 agriculture.

23 Thanks for the question.

24 MR. STERLING: You do not plan on addressing any of
25 the criteria for this facility?

1 MR. ANDERSON: Which criteria?

2 MR. STERLING: Any of the 8.

3 MR. ANDERSON: Name one and ask me the question.

4 MR. STERLING: I'm just asking you. You didn't --
5 you didn't make the point of talking about any.

6 MR. ANDERSON: So my point to the Board is that I
7 think this facility can meet the criteria that the state
8 provides.

9 There are some other issues out there that they --
10 some folks don't like, but from the 8 siting criteria and
11 following the rules and maintaining that integrity through all
12 those engineers and state engineers, I think we can meet that and
13 we can succeed in meeting the Act. I think it's pretty clear.

14 MR. FRANK: Mr. DeMoss, did you have a question?

15 MR. DeMOSS: No, I don't, sir.

16 MR. FRANK: Any other questions for this witness?

17 I see none. Thank you.

18 Is there anyone else who would like to provide oral
19 testimony?

20 I see no hands.

21 Entered in record as Exhibit Number 10 is the oral
22 testimony sign-in sheets.

23 Entered into the record as Exhibit Number 11 is the
24 attendance sign-in sheets.

25 Are there any closing comments from the Facility?

1 DR. HOLLIS: No.

2 MR. FRANK: No closing comments from the Facility.

3 Any closing comments from the Department?

4 None.

5 Okay. Sir, did you have a question?

6 MR. GRADY: Yes. John Grady, G-r-a-d-y.

7 I would -- Mr. Harold Wilson, the former hog producer

8 in Clayton, and if you -- you don't have to answer, but do you

9 mind saying one way or another how you feel about this?

10 MR. FRANK: If -- if he doesn't want to answer,

11 that's fine. If he does, we would need to have him come up and

12 be sworn in.

13 MR. GRADY: No. You don't have to. It's up to you

14 if you want to make a comment one way or the other.

15 MR. WILSON: No thanks.

16 MR. FRANK: Okay. All right.

17 Well, thank you. As I mentioned earlier, a copy of

18 the transcript will be provided to the County Board.

19 For others desiring a copy you can contact the court

20 reporter.

21 Thank you for your attendance tonight. I will turn

22 this meeting back over to Chairman Post.

23 MR. POST: I would also like to -- also like to thank

24 everyone for coming out tonight to the public hearing. And

25 remind everyone that the County Board will take action on this on

1 their June 9th meeting.

2 And would like to remind the board members and the
3 public that it is strictly a non-binding advisory vote whether we
4 feel they have met the 8 siting criteria.

5 And we do not decide if a permit will be issued.
6 That's up to the Department of Ag.

7 If there's nothing else, we'll declare the meeting
8 adjourned.

9 * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Randall W. Wells, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the proceedings
had in the matter set forth in the caption page hereon were
reported in shorthand by me, afterwards transcribed, and the
foregoing is a true and complete transcript of said shorthand
notes.

Date: May 29, 2015

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